

Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine And Even Bigger In Buckingham Palace!

Still
\$4

This Week's Line Up

goal! Weekly

Vol. 7 No. 11 Monday 2nd May 2011

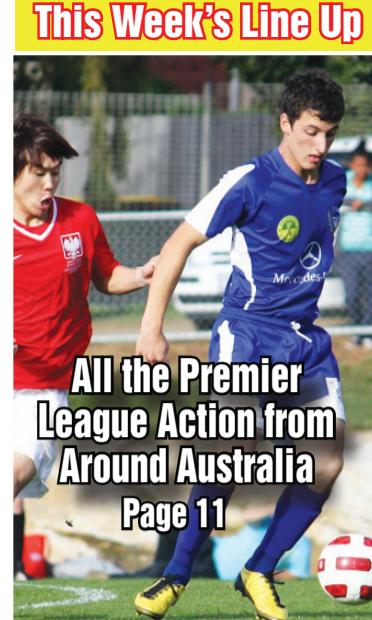
ISSN 1837-8056
9 1771837 805007

Elastoplast

Souvenir Melbourne Victory
Poster Inside



PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



All the Premier
League Action from
Around Australia
Page 11



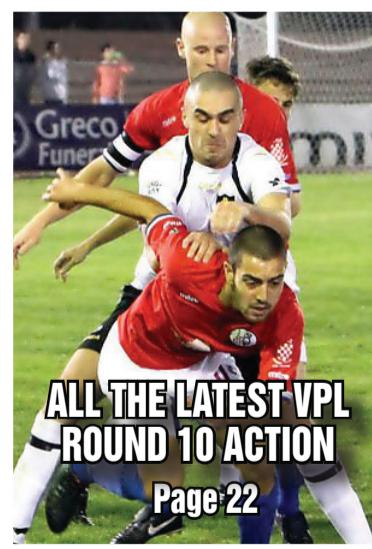
FOOTBALL FOCUS
ON GREEN GULLY'S
RYAN OLLERTON

Page 17



Blast From The Past:
LEO BAUMGARTNER

Page 9



ALL THE LATEST VPL
ROUND 10 ACTION

Page 22



www.futsaloz.com

★★★★★ INNER CITY FC A MODERN JUNIOR CLUB ★★★★★

Tel. 1300 788 799

Zagame's
CAULFIELD HOTEL



UEFA
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE®

WED 4TH MAY @ 4.45AM



V



THUR 5TH MAY @ 4.45AM



V



ESPN

FOX SPORTS HD

tab sportsbet

YOU'RE ON!

**IF IT'S LIVE... IT'S AT
ZAGAME'S CAULFIELD SPORTS BAR!**

25 DERBY ROAD, CAULFIELD EAST 3145 | PH: 9571 6268 | www.zagames.com.au

Monday 2nd May 2011

Dandenong Thunder hit for six

By Craig MacKenzie

DANDENONG Thunder's hopes of ending the season as outright Alanic VPL leader hang in the balance as the club struggles to come to terms with last week's tribunal decision to strip it of six championship points.

The club plans to lodge an appeal with FFV either today or tomorrow after the Thunder board received overwhelming support at a hastily convened gathering of members and sponsors last Saturday night.

Club president Driton Maliku emerged from a lengthy meeting with the club's lawyers on Sunday and told Goal! Weekly that although supporters were worried and upset at what had taken place they pledged their support to challenge the tribunal decision.

"We're the only club in the VPL to be hit this hard," said Maliku. "But we're going to go all the way with this one."

All the way to the Supreme Court of Victoria?

"If that's what it takes. We told everyone that it could cost a lot of money to do this but they said no matter what it costs – even if it's \$100,000 or \$200,000 – we're going to fight this."

"This is not about individuals. It is about our club and we are going to stand up for our club."

Thunder had been called to answer misconduct charges last week arising from its 16 April home game against Bentleigh Greens which ended in a 1-1 draw. The charges resulted from the alleged misconduct of club associates Muamet Abili and Festim Zekiri who themselves faced misconduct charges.

Abili's charge was as a result of "allegedly making inappropriate contact with the match official(s) and/or questioning the decisions of the match official(s) while acting in his capacity as a ground marshall."

Zekiri, holder of an FFA ID number, was charged as a result of "allegedly directing foul, abusive and/or insulting language and/or spitting on/at the match official(s)."

The tribunal found the club guilty. It fined Thunder \$4000 and deducted six points which at the time sent it tumbling from top spot to fourth.

The tribunal also ordered the club to play its next four home games behind closed doors. That decision translates into a massive fine as Thunder rakes in a minimum of \$20,000 from each home game.



The moment in the Thunder v Greens match which caused the uproar. Matt Theodore scores only to be adjudged offside and thus sparking a round of abuse directed at officials. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Abili and Zekiri were both found guilty and fined \$2000 each.

Thunder's playing group was shattered when news filtered back to George Andrews Reserve last Wednesday night, none more so that senior keeper Stuart Webster.

"Right now I just feel like chucking it in. I don't see the point of

playing the sport any more when it comes down to this," he said.

"Everything went quiet in the rooms when we heard about it. The players were dejected, really down. I couldn't sleep on Wednesday night thinking about what this means to us. I can't come to terms with this yet.

"What have the players done

to be penalised like this? Six points? I can't stop thinking of all the hard work we've put in to get into this position (first) then all of a sudden through no fault of our own we're clinging onto a final berth.

"I'm really gutted by this. I feel we've got one of the best squads in the league and this year could

be our year. I've played in two grand finals and got two runners-up and I felt we had a really good shot at it this year but it could all be thrown out the door.

"I'm not condoning what supporters have done but I honestly feel that they (the tribunal) are punishing the players more than anyone else and we've done nothing wrong."

Club captain Veton Korcari echoed Webster's sentiments. Korcari said that he and vice-captain Shane Rexhepi had to stand up and show leadership qualities in the face of the tribunal setback.

"It certainly affected a few of the boys," said Korcari. "It's the points thing that really affects us. Why have we been targeted over something we've got not control over?"

Senior coach Stuart Munro and assistant Franz Weimper gathered the players together at training on Friday night and spoke about the impact the decision had and how best to deal with the matter.

The club's visa players were shocked at the points deduction having never witnessed anything like it anywhere else in the football world.

FFV would not comment on the issue until it is resolved through the appropriate appeals process.

IS IT ALL A POINTLESS EXERCISE?

from Heidelberg United's home game against Melbourne Knights on 10 April.

Should the police investigation result in charges being laid against associates of either or both the clubs in question then FFV may face the prospect of having to lay misconduct charges against the club or clubs involved.

In Heidelberg's case this could have important ramifications. Heidelberg was docked three championship points in March as a result of senior coach George Katsakis being found guilty of a misconduct charge.

The last thing Heidelberg needs is to contest a second misconduct charge in the space of a few weeks.

In the Thunder case no police charges were laid. No-one seems to have deemed the physical and

verbal abuse of a match official that night as serious enough to bring charges against the perpetrators under common law.

The match official at the centre of the furore that erupted at George Andrews Reserve on the night in question is Harry Milas. The fact that his official complaint after a Thunder game last year led to coach Stuart Munro and assistant Doug Hodgson having to front the tribunal has stirred conspiracy theorists to claim that Milas "has it in for us" as one Thunder supporter put it.

Milas is not allowed to comment on such matters. He is shackled by federation constraints placed upon referees speaking to the media, which means that he is not afforded the opportunity to respond to any allegations made against him, no matter how bizarre. Not in this forum at least.

Milas is not allowed to comment on such matters. He is shackled by federation constraints placed upon referees speaking to the media, which means that he is not afforded the opportunity to respond to any allegations made against him, no matter how bizarre. Not in this forum at least.

That is a potentially crippling impost and from my perspective it looks like a very large stick has been wielded here.

As if that massive hit to Thunder's hip pocket was not enough

the tribunal also stripped the club of six points and in one fell swoop knocked it off top perch

on the VPL ladder.

I have spoken to a number of people with professional football backgrounds in the past few days and to a man they are puzzled by the penalties that can be imposed here for spectators abusing match officials.

It happens at every professional football match played in every corner of the globe and I'm yet to meet someone who can point to another competition in the world that so readily deducts points from clubs because supporters yell and scream at referees and linesmen.

Those ex-pros tell me that Victoria is a pioneer in that regard but they say so with disdain and disbelief.

Increasingly I'm coming around to their point of view.



Official Harry Milas raises his flag after Matt Theodore scored.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

MACKENZIE AT LARGE

With Craig MacKenzie

COMMENT

FOOTBALL Federation Victoria faces a dilemma. How can it force clubs to take responsibility for the actions of their associates while ensuring that its showpiece competition does not descend into farce?

FFV is walking a tightrope right now with the possibility that its independent tribunal may end up playing a pivotal role in deciding which clubs contest the finals series and which clubs are relegated to State League Division One.

Should that situation arise what would VPL naming rights sponsor, Alanic, think of being associated with such a competition? And what effect would this have on prospective sponsors?

As I write, an ongoing investigation is being conducted by Victoria Police into incidents arising

The latest Adidas Football Team Wear available to your team.

To receive the latest catalogue contact adidas on 1800 801 891

adidas



Double delight for Irvine as Bhoys go back-to-back

By Craig MacKenzie

JACKSON Irvine's first season with Scottish giant Celtic has climaxed in spectacular fashion with the Victorian teenager winning the championship and youth cup double.

Irvine anchored Celtic's midfield in Wednesday night's 2-1 Scottish Youth Cup triumph over arch rival Rangers at Hampden Park. The former Frankston Pines star was making his seventh straight under-19s start in the first year of a two-year contract.

His excitement a few hours after the extra time cup triumph was obvious. His facebook page said it all with this post:

"Never been so happy in my whole life! Celtic league and cup double champions 2010/2011! Celtic 2-1 Rangers, what a feeling, what a night!"

Celtic had hammered Rangers 3-0 in their league clash at Murray Park a couple of weeks earlier but found the cup final a far tougher proposition.

Celtic substitute Liam Gormley's 25-yard strike in the 110th minute ensured Steven Frail's side repeated last year's feat in toppling their Old Firm rivals.



Double delight for Jackson Irvine as Celtic's under-19s win the league championship and the Scottish Youth Cup.

This competition has proven a springboard for young talent to flourish at the national stadium and it was the turn of goalscorers Gormley and Greig Spence of Celtic, and Rhys McCabe of Rangers, to see their name in lights.

Spence opened the scoring with a delightful chip over stranded

Rangers goalkeeper Gary Inglis, but just as Celtic had considered celebrating a successful defence of the trophy, McCabe grabbed a late equaliser to send the game into extra time.

Cue Gormley to clamber off the bench and celebrate a strike fit to win any competition.

Celtic had began the contest

with an attacking and expansive formation, but for all their possession and dominance in the middle of the park, the Hoops rarely threatened Inglis' goal. However, they came flying out of the traps after the break, their full backs getting forward to great effect and Keiran Brennan produced a fierce strike that

found the wrong side of the crossbar.

Patrik Twardzik hit the crossbar but the breakthrough was imminent. The lively O'Donnell found space on the edge of the box and laid off to Spence, who produced a lovely piece of individual skill to turn his man and chip the ball over Inglis from 12 yards.

Rangers upped their efforts almost immediately, with Kal Naismith forcing an excellent fingertip save from Nicholas Feely.

Just as Celtic looked to have done enough to close the game out, McCabe popped up with three minutes remaining to fire his side level and force extra time. Kyle McAusland's long ball found Chris Hegarty, who headed into the box for McCabe to dispatch past Feely.

The anxieties of extra time were felt throughout the stadium but it was Celtic who took the initiative. Gormley had been on the park a matter of seconds and his first touch produced the winning goal. He picked up the ball about 25 yards out and his shot dipped under Inglis into the back of the net.

Rangers too had the ball in the back of the net with only a few

minutes remaining but just as Chris Hegarty wheeled away to celebrate, the flag went up for offside to the dismay of his teammates and to Celtic's delight.

SOURCES: Craig MacKenzie; Scottish Football Association website

CELTIC 2
RANGERS 1
Scottish Youth Cup Final at Hampden Park, Glasgow.
Scorers: Spence 71st, Gormley 110th (Celtic); McCabe 87th (Rangers).

CELTIC: Feely, Toshney, Brennan, Hughes, O'Donnell, Bagshaw, Irvine, P. Twardzik (Gormley), Spence (Atajic), F. Twardzik, McGregor. **Unused subs:** Thomson, Fraser, Feruz. **RANGERS:** Inglis, McAusland, McIntyre, Cole, Hegarty, Hunter, Fotheringham (Crawford), Dick (McNeil), Hemmings (Mitchell), McCabe, Naismith. **Unused subs:** Mitchell, Wiktor-ski, Drummond. **Attendance:** 9427.

SOURCES: Craig MacKenzie; Scottish Football Association website

The Sweet Memories of Michalakopoulos

By Luke Gillman

Having won an NSL championship under the great Hungarian Ferenc Puskas and played with a golden crop of Socceroos in the lead-up to the Barcelona Olympics, former South Melbourne striker Michael Michalakopoulos has seen a lot change in Australian football over the last two decades. After coaching South Melbourne to the Victorian Premier League finals in 2009, he retired from football on a high note. Michael recently spoke to GW about getting to know Puskas, lacing up his boots with Aussie legends Ned Zelic and Ange Postecoglou, and much more.

When Michael Michalakopoulos talks about his friends and former teammates, a roll call of local greats falls from his mouth. "I remember going to Mehmet Durakovic's place (as a teenager) to watch him play at a dead-end street, and he would be playing one-twos off the wheel of a car", he says. "And I grew up with Paul Trimboli. I played with him at South (Melbourne, then South Melbourne Hellas). We had a squad of about eight guys who ended up playing for Australia at some level".

After falling in love with football as a 13 year old watching the 1982 World Cup in Spain, Michalakopoulos began his career at Port Melbourne before signing for South Melbourne in 1989- the very same year Real Madrid and Hungary legend Ferenc Puskas was signed to manage the NSL team.

"(When Puskas arrived) there was this euphoria", Michalakopoulos says. "He was a brilliant personality. He wasn't a tactician as such like Mourinho or Wenger, he didn't teach us anything technical, but he was great at bringing us together".

While Puskas struggled to communicate with limited English, his talent with the ball was evident from day one as Michalakopoulos recalls.

"(The first time) I saw him at a game watching, the ball came to



Michael Michalakopoulos lifts the Hellenic Cup as coach of South Melbourne back in 2009, with then captain Rama Tavascioglu. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

him and... he did a flick with the ball and I thought 'This guy knows how to play'. You could just tell he had that ability, he had the aura about him as all these amazing players do".

It seems the Hungarian was not averse to getting involved at training either, despite his physical condition at the time.

"He couldn't move that much, he was quite overweight", Michalakopoulos says, "but his left foot! You could see it and think 'Oh my God'. He could easily hit ten penalties in a row to Bruce McLaren who was the keeper and score each one. He was an artist at work with his left foot".

Puskas wasn't the only one at South Melbourne who made an impression on the young players. According to Michalakopoulos, former Australian captain Paul Wade also left his mark on the youngsters who were to go on to success in their own right.

"Wadey... was a sensational inspir-

ing leader- probably less technique-based than some others", Michalakopoulos enthuses, "but in terms of the leadership and what he gave in terms of his heart, he was inspiring just watching. He couldn't move after a game he was so spent".

While South Melbourne were on their way to the championship in 1991, Michalakopoulos was also holding down a regular spot in the Australian under-23 squad during qualification for the 1992 Olympics.

"I just missed out on going to the Barcelona Olympics because I wasn't playing regularly", he says, shaking his head. "But we had some fantastic players... Paul Okon, Ned Zelic, Tony Vidmar... a golden era of players. Even Bosnich was there, he was flying for Aston Villa (at the time)".

Ned Zelic in particular receives special praise from Michalakopoulos. "Ned Zelic was superb... you could never ruffle a feather of his", he says. "He stood up when

he needed to be counted. He was the type of guy that led through actions. He was very quiet compared to Wadey, but he was a very cool cat".

Following the highs of an NSL championship and a handful of appearances with the under-23 national team, Michalakopoulos moved across Melbourne to Heidelberg United for three more seasons of top-flight football before playing in the state league for Springvale and Ringwood City.

After retiring as a player, Michalakopoulos relished the idea of making a return in a managerial capacity, ultimately achieving this in 2008.

His former club South Melbourne was back in the Victorian Premier League but was struggling in the relegation zone. Michalakopoulos took charge and helped lift them to mid-table safety by season's end. Come 2009, South Melbourne was performing much better under Michalakopoulos who oversaw a ten

game unbeaten run and an appearance in the finals, before retiring to focus on his family.

"I enjoyed going back (to South Melbourne) and doing this", Michalakopoulos says. "I found it a little bit disappointing that I didn't go that extra step and win the championship with them (as a coach, but) we got to the finals".

When asked about what it was like to be coaching rather than playing at his former club, Michalakopoulos continues.

"It was actually good to be on the other side, but still the passion was there because I felt like I hadn't done everything as a player (at South Melbourne). I left prematurely and my potential wasn't reached, and I always wanted to come back in some manner and that was good. It's still not a chapter that's closed hopefully".

His recent involvement at a coaching level gave Michalakopoulos the chance to see a lot of young talent up close, and he name checks Matt Foschini and Kliment Taseski, of Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart respectively, as youngsters who stood out in their commitment and professionalism.

And just how does Michalakopoulos recommend a young committed player get the edge they need to succeed?

"I say to young kids who are playing and are at the age of 16, if they can get into a senior environment, even if it's one lower division... it's good, you learn a lot. I learnt more in one year of senior football than I did in any junior one because everything's so different, every aspect- adapting your game very quickly, being able to be hit by a senior tackle... even the mental process of fitting in and biding your time".

While on the topic of young Australian players, Michalakopoulos talks about his respect for his former captain and current Brisbane Roar coach Ange Postecoglou who has been rewarded for his faith in his young players with this year's A-League Championship.

"I've been really impressed and inspired with what Ange Postecoglou's done at Brisbane Roar", Michalakopoulos says. "He was a little bit ridiculed with what he'd done at the (national under-20) youth team, but he's come back bigger and better and stronger and these guys are playing some amazing football. I admire him for that".

"You could tell he had that head on his shoulders to go into managing roles", Michalakopoulos continues.

"He was very good like that, he could play the system well as a player but also as a coach. He's got people skills, he's very switched on and he's come back and proved a lot of people wrong".

Talk turns to the recently announced Mirabella Cup, a Football Federation Victoria initiative which will see the A-League's Victory and Heart join with over one hundred clubs in a statewide knockout competition similar to the FA Cup. Michalakopoulos' verdict is an optimistic one.

"I think it's a great idea", he says. "It's something we've lost for a while. I remember growing up with the Dockerty Cup where clubs from the state league played national league teams and vice versa. I think it's great and I think (clubs) need that incentive".

When pressed about the benefits the Mirabella Cup will have for non-A-League teams, Michalakopoulos is quick to explain.

"Even though the A-League is great and (football in Australia) had to go that way, it has been to the detriment of these big clubs", he says. "South (Melbourne) and Melbourne Knights are big clubs in a small league and that's been quite devastating to the followers and the community. I think they need that (competition) and they need to put on a show when they come up against the A-League clubs".

And if one of these clubs can spring a surprise, Michalakopoulos would be very pleased. After all, everybody loves an underdog.

Cup produces giant scores and giant killings



By Robert Di Fabio

A profusion of Mirabella Cup fixtures kicked off during the Easter period as the fourth round embarked on some memorable encounters.

The second stage of the cup is where the competition begins to gain its prosperous flavour with the inauguration of the seeded Altona VPL and State League One outfits.

The Easter interlude witnessed 12 fixtures comprising of exhilaration, animation and drama. The presence of reigning VPL champion **Green Gully Cavaliers**, former NSL winners **South Melbourne** and an abundance of other high profile Victorian clubs made their first appearance in the inventive Mirabella Cup competition.

The fourth round will proceed onwards this week, while the current round will come to a closure on 15 May.

Review of the Mirabella Cup 4th Round fixtures throughout the Easter period:

We inaugurate proceedings with the **Moreland City** (State 2) and **Fawkner Blues** (State 1) encounter at Campbell Reserve. City were prepared for the task ahead of them. A commanding display in the opening half saw Moreland go into the break leading 1-0. Moreland City's impressive start to the State League 2 N/W season (three wins from three games) was evident when playing their higher league opposition. Ultimately, Moreland City held on for a thrilling victory to defeat Fawkner Blues 3-2.

Mildura United (Regional) had the ambitious assignment of travelling to the territory of defending VPL champion Green Gully Cavaliers. The fixture illustrated an enormous gulf in class and professionalism among the competing clubs. On a day the Mildura outfit would rather overlook they found themselves trailing 9-0 at the halftime interval. The Cavaliers continued their dominance in the second period planting the nail in the coffin with a colossal 18-0 victory.

Easter Tuesday brought about the highly anticipated Hume derby between local rivals **Hume City** (VPL) and **Hume United** (State 3) at Broadmeadows Valley Park. The derby lived up to its reputation with a flurry of adrenaline, tension and exhilaration evident on and off the pitch. The three divisions separating the two outfits seemed irrelevant as United stepped up to the challenge. With the scores level at 1-1 in the second period, City were awarded a penalty which was subsequently taken advantage of. Hume City



Ljubo Milicevic (right) and Fernando De Moraes quietly celebrate one of South Melbourne's 10 second half goals while the Yarraville Glory keeper hopes the ground will open up and swallow him.

Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

prevailed 2-1 in a vastly competitive contest.

The solitary Provisional League vs VPL contest was under way at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex as **Bayside Argonauts** (Prov 2) welcomed **Bentleigh Greens** (VPL) to its home turf. A massive five divisions separated the two outfits on the Victorian football pyramid, although Bayside can be proud of their efforts. The Argonauts trailed 2-0 at the halftime interval, before succumbing to a 4-0 defeat. A reputable exertion from the Provisional League outfit who will look back fondly on this cup tie.

The **Ballarat Red Devils** (State 2) continued their impressive league and cup form with a memorable 1-0 victory against **North Geelong Warriors** (State 1) in extra time. Following the standard 90 minutes, neither side could seize the initiative to find the winner they desired. Luke Armstrong brought the Red Devils into ecstasy in the 109th minute with what proved to be the winning goal. Ballarat held on to record an impressive triumph over their higher league counter-parts.

We continue on towards John Cain Memorial Park where renowned Victorian powerhouse **South Melbourne** (VPL) made



Langwarrin's Simon O'Donnell and Dandenong City's Ivan Klaric tangle during their Mirabella Cup match over the Easter weekend. Dandenong City progress to the next round after winning 1-0. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

their Mirabella Cup debut with a striking display against **Yarraville Glory** (State 3). South piled on the pressure early with a commanding first half, leading the Glory 4-0 at the break. Yarraville were left to feel like amateurs as South Melbourne enforced their superiority with a devastating 10 goal second half. South ultimately triumphed 14-0. It was a disappointing outcome for the Glory who prides themselves on being competitive and righteous in their football approach.

An exclusive State League affair was apparent at Lawton Park Reserve as **Dandenong City** (State 2) travelled to the home turf of **Langwarrin** (State 1). Dandenong may be inferior in league ranking; however their form wasn't a symbolic factor in the outcome of the fixture. City can claim bragging rights with an astounding 1-0 victory, a fantastic achievement against an outfit who possess an array of talent.

In other results, **FC Clifton Hill** (State 2) disposed of **Twin City**

(Regional) 5-2 at Kevin Bartlett Reserve, meanwhile former VPL representatives **Sunshine George Cross** inflicted a ruthless display of football by strolling to an 11-0 victory over Strathdale (Regional).

The beauty and allure of cup football was brought into fruition at Paisley Park Soccer Complex on Wednesday night. The upset of the competition was evident as a triumphant **North Sunshine Eagles** (Prov 1) defeated the might of **Altona Magic** (State 1), an outfit that recently boosted the honour of Victorian champions twice in 2008 and 2009. An immense three divisions separated the clubs on the Victorian football pyramid, although this didn't allow the Eagles to be psychologically effected. North Sunshine went into the halftime interval leading 1-0 and further went on to claim a remarkable 2-1 victory. A result that will forever be a cornerstone in the club's memorable history. Altona Magic exits the competition amid mortification, although they will be eager to make amends during the league season.

Dandenong Thunder (VPL) made their first Mirabella cup appearance while hosting **South Springvale** (State 2) at George Andrews Reserve. In a close encounter, South Springvale stepped up to the challenge, forcing out a 0-0 result at the main break. South Springvale demonstrated temperament and wit; although it wasn't enough as the class of the Thunder struck fourth to record a convincing 2-0 win.

The impressive **Oakleigh Cannons** (VPL) acquired their first taste of cup football with a showdown against **Waverley Wanderers** (State 3) at Jack Edwards Reserve. The Cannons continued their imposing league form with a destructive first half display, hitting the back of the net on four occasions to go into the halftime break leading 4-0. To Waverley's credit, the Wanderers didn't die wondering pulling back two goals. Although it wasn't to be as Oakleigh went on to take the honours recording a 5-2 victory.

The fourth round of the Mirabella Cup continues with a further eight games scheduled as mid-week fixtures this week, while the two remaining matches will take place next week. Thus far, the fourth round has witnessed some extravagant score lines, surprising results and a wealth of elite outfits making their presence felt. Stage two of the competition still has plenty more to offer.

Follow Robert on Facebook,
<http://www.facebook.com/robert-difabio.journalism>

WORLD OF SOCCER

THE ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR SOCCER NEEDS



World of Soccer - Dandenong
Shop 4/119 Lonsdale Street
Tel: 9794 5860

FREE POSTAGE ANYWHERE
IN AUSTRALIA

www.worldofsoccac.com.au

A football headache of Olympic proportions

By Josh Landy

The 2012 Olympics may not be for well over a year, but here in London, it seems as though it's a matter of hours away. Such is the hype at the moment, given the applications for tickets ends in a week that it is the main topic of conversation for many Londoners.

Everyone is busy asking each other what they've applied for and whilst the female beach volleyball is rumoured to have been one of the most in demand events – there's been surprisingly little conversation about Olympic football.

Of course, this is because in some respects, it ranks pretty low compared to the one other football tournament for the world – the World Cup, but this is also because the attention on Olympic football is currently entirely off the pitch. England are known throughout the world for football. We invented it but gradually a lot of countries around the world started beating us – not least Australia whose victory over England on Wayne Rooney's debut remains a low point from the last decade.

However, we are, as England, part of Great Britain, which

means that when it comes to the Olympics we partner up with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. But what is this going to mean for football? The answer at the moment is that we don't know.

The British Olympic Authority (BOA) have asked the English Football Association to head up the selection of the team and they are keen to have representatives from all the home nations. The home nations however are none too keen to have their players involved.

They are worried that should their players represent 'Team GB' that it will signify there is no need to maintain independent teams. It's a situation to which FIFA President Sepp Blatter has said "if they play, there is no sanction" but the reality is that Blatter is not trusted here in the UK.

Incoming FIFA vice-president Jim Boyce, a former president of the Irish Football Association told the BBC that "it's all very well somebody saying something but it needs to be made clear in writing. I think Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were very fearful something might happen."

But whether this dispute can be resolved even if something



Going for gold: Peter Crouch and Gareth Bale could well be gunning for Team Britain.

is written down is still not clear. Former Scottish Football Association Chief Executive Gordon Smith told the BBC that meetings he sat in on had decided that "it would be an English team at the Olympics – and that it would be made very clear that Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales would not be part of it. I do not see any way back."

At this point I should make it clear this is not a hypothetical situation. Tottenham Hotspur and Wales midfielder Gareth

Bale was named as the Professional Footballers Association player of the year last week and there is no doubt that he would be amongst the strongest 23 from the home nations.

Wales have not qualified for a major competition since the 1958 World Cup and if Bale looks to someone such as Ryan Giggs he'll note his footballing CV has never included a major international competition – this could be Bale's only chance. Tottenham manager, Harry

Redknapp is keen for Bale to go if he can. "I would like to see us pick the best team to represent our country so that we can have a real go at winning the gold medal."

It may come down a battle of willpower. In twelve months time the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Football Associations could well be telling their players not to play, but legally powerless to stop any should they decide to disobey.

Threats of never being selected again could be expected,



Meanwhile, beach volleyball surprisingly continues to be a popular drawcard amongst the lads....

but given the records of the other home nations at qualifying for major competitions, there's no doubt it would be a case of cutting off your nose to spite your face.

Gareth Bale crossing for Peter Crouch to head home remains likely to happen for some time, but whether it's to win three Premier League points for Tottenham or a potential Gold medal at London 2012 remains uncertain.

Setting the record straight about the Old Firm

By Roy Hay

This year in Scotland the 'Old Firm', Celtic and Rangers will meet seven times in the 2010-11 season.

Somewhere along the line the notion has arisen that this is a record and the two clubs have never played as many games in one football year.

Most recently the Sunday Age repeated this claim in its PSSST column on the back page of the sports section. The column is well named, but inaccurate.

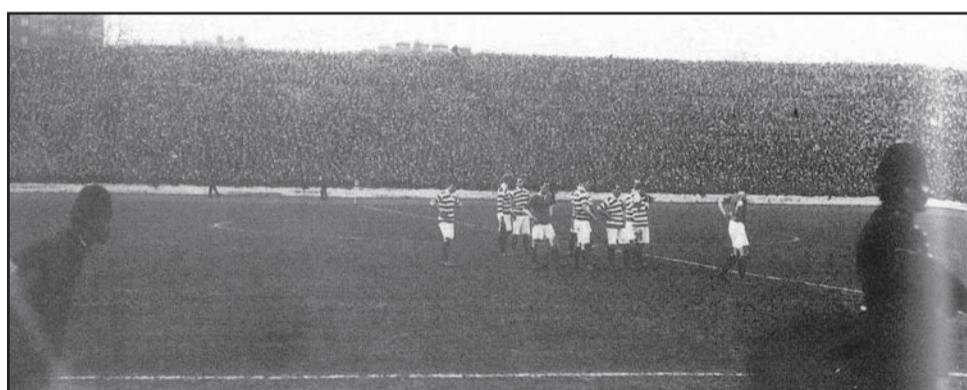
When my grandfather, James 'Dun' Hay was captain of Celtic in 1908-09, the clubs met seven times—twice in the Scottish League, twice in the Scottish Cup, including the replay in the final which preceded the Hampden Riot, of which more in a moment, twice in the Glasgow Cup and once in the Glasgow Charity Cup.

But that was not the first time or the record for the number of meetings between the clubs in a single season.

There were seven meetings in 1896-97 and 1900-01, eight in 1897-98 and 1898-99 and nine in 1899-1900.

In that year there were two Scottish League meetings, two in the Inter-City League, two in the Scottish Cup, two in the Glasgow Cup and one in the Charity Cup.

Judging by the team lists these



1909 Final replay. The end of the match. Dodds, Loney, Hay, Quinn, McMenemy and McNair (Celtic) and Gordon and Galt (Rangers) linger, encouraging the idea that extra-time might be played. Hugh Keevins and Kevin McCarra, *One Hundred Cups: The Story of the Scottish Cup*, Mainstream, Edinburgh, 1985, p. 78.

were all full strength fixtures and that is why they were called the Old Firm, because of their sedulous pursuit of the money.

In 1909, the Scottish Cup final had to be replayed after Jimmy Quinn, the star centre forward for Celtic, rescued a draw for his team by barging the Rangers' keeper into his own net while he was holding the ball very late in the game.

The replay took place at Hampden Park a week later on 17 April.

The Scottish Football Association had decreed that if the replay was also drawn a third match would be required, but Willy Maley, Celtic's manager, had hinted in his newspaper column that extra time would

be used to settle the issue.

When the match ended one-all, with Quinn scoring again for Celtic, some of the players lingered on the pitch suggesting the possibility of extra-time.

But when officials began removing the corner flags, the fans came over the fence in disgust at what they saw as the greed of the clubs and the SFA.

For the only time in the history of the game in Scotland the fans of Rangers and Celtic rioted in unison against the authorities instead of kicking lumps out of each other.

They burned the pay boxes, a neat symbolic gesture, and when firemen arrive to put the flames out they were pelted with stones by the rioters who

also cut the fire hoses according to a report.

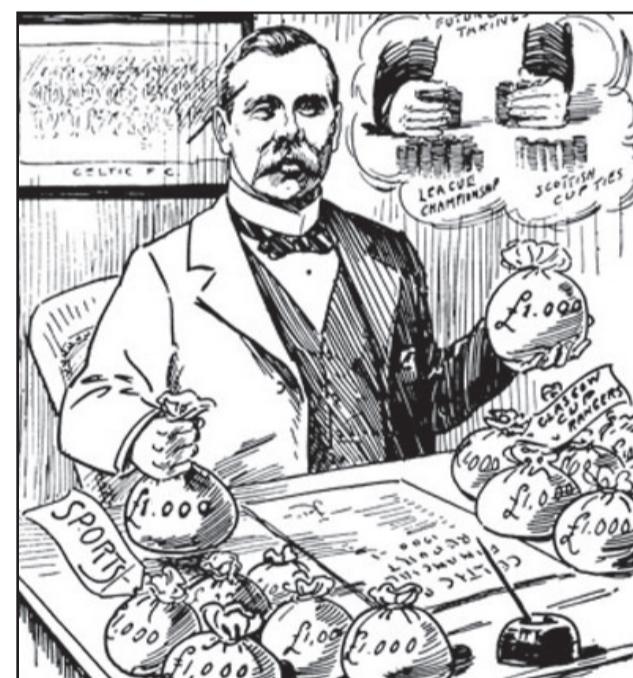
It is also said the outnumbered police on duty had to throw the stones back at the crowd to try to restore order.

Another story is that only one rioter appeared before the court after the incident.

I cannot vouch for the truth of all these claims and there is no doubt that a lot of embroidery has gone on since the event.

What is certain, however, is that Celtic and Rangers did meet seven times in 1908-09 even if the Scottish Cup was withheld and both clubs were sanctioned.

Celtic was in the midst of a stellar period in which it won the Scottish League six times in a row, something which



'Maley moneybags'. Bill Murray, *The Old Firm: Sectarianism, Sport and Society in Scotland*, John Donald, Edinburgh, 1984, p. 38, taken from *Scottish Sport*, 24 August 1900.

remained a record until Jock Stein's magnificent teams won nine in succession.

Rangers emulated that feat under Graham Souness and Walter Smith.

So nine is an important number for both Rangers and Celtic, and the teams did meet nine times in 1899-1900.

I appreciate the help of David Paton with this column. The career of James 'Dun' Hay is covered in my biography of my grandfather, Roy Hay, *James 'Dun' Hay, 1881-1940: The Story of a Footballer, Sports and Editorial Services Australia*, Teesdale, Victoria, 2004, available from our website at www.sesasport.com.au or from Amazon UK and other good bookshops.



Pepe Lopez

First it was Honorary Real Madrid President Alfredo Di Stefano who came out in shock criticism of Real Madrid Coach Jose Mourinho, labelling his club "a mouse" in comparison to "The Lion" of Barcelona after the La Liga El Clasico on the 16th of April. Jose appeared to have silenced his critics after beating "The Lion" in the Copa Del Rey Final just four days later, however after the worldwide condemnation of Jose Mourinho's post-match press conference comments of the Champions League Semi-Final 1st Leg, Real Madrid President elect Florentino Perez labelled Jose Mourinho's antics "a disgrace".

In what has become an ironic twist on the series of El Clasicos this season, the actions of the coaches off field have received more world wide media coverage than the football on the pitch. Barcelona Coach Pep Guardiola stated in his pre-match Champions League 1st Leg Press Conference that he could not beat Jose off the pitch in psychological warfare, as Jose was "the [expletive] master". However, as it has turned out, Pep Guardiola is now ahead in that battle too.

Barring a miracle turn-around in the 2nd Leg of the Champions League Semi-Final by Real Madrid at a hostile Nou Camp this week, Jose Mourinho's days at Real Madrid look numbered. His inevitable pending lengthy suspension from the touchline due Friday week from UEFA, will mean many clubs look-

No Way Jose!

Mourinho On Thin Ice



The Special One all but conceded the La Liga title and with a Champions League semi-final return leg to worry about, a weakened Real Madrid line-up went down 3-2 against struggling Real Zaragoza.

ing for a seasoned coach (Chelsea and Inter Milan being two of those candidates) will think twice before trying to prize Jose away from the Santiago Bernabeu next season.

Despite the glaring arrogance of Mourinho, Jose showed rare humility after Real Madrid's latest defeat, a 2-3 home loss to the relegation threatened Real Zaragoza. "In football the difference in mental preparation is important, when one team goes out full of concentration and motivation and the other doesn't, the blame is the coach's, obviously..."

The comments were indeed an in-

dication that even Jose Mourinho has begun to doubt his own talents, as blame for the defeat could easily have been directed at Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas, whose mis-clearance gifted Zaragoza the opening goal, or referee Miguel Angel Ayza Gamez, who awarded Zaragoza a soft penalty, and denied Madrid a spotkick of their own after Kaka was clearly brought down from behind inside the Zaragoza penalty area. In the end it was Lafita's day, scoring twice for Zaragoza, and earning a penalty, whilst Sergio Ramos and Karim Benzema scored consolation goals for Real.

With Andres Iniesta injured, Barcelona rested many key players from their La Liga fixture away to Real Sociedad. Out of the starting line-up were Puyol, Mascherano, Alves, Valdes and Villa. Thiago scored the opening goal for Barcelona, but in a surprise second half turn-around, the brave Real Sociedad took the match to Barcelona and scored two late goals to keep the La Liga title race alive for at least another two weeks, as Barca missed the chance to storm 11 points clear at the top of the table, with just four matches remaining.

La Liga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	34	70	88
2 Real Madrid	34	52	80
3 Valencia	33	16	63
4 Villarreal	33	12	57
5 Atletico Madrid	34	11	52
6 Athletic Bilbao	33	4	51
7 Sevilla	33	2	49
8 Espanyol	33	-6	45
9 Mallorca	33	-10	42
10 Levante	33	-9	42
11 Real Sociedad	34	-13	41
12 Sporting Gijon	33	-6	41
13 Real Zaragoza	34	-12	39
14 Deportivo	34	-15	38
15 Getafe	33	-10	37
16 Racing	33	-17	37
17 Malaga	33	-19	36
18 Osasuna	33	-4	35
19 Hercules	33	-20	33
20 Almeria	33	-26	26

In the day's only other match Atletico Madrid continued their recent good form to win their 5th match out of their past 6, to keep alive hopes of a Europa League place, and even an outside chance of Champions League football, with a 0-1 away win to Deportivo La Coruna. 22 year old Atleti Captain Sergio "Kun" Aguero scored his 17th of the La Liga season with a late and faint touch that just scrambled into the Deportivo goal. "Kun" has been subject to many rumours and bids from other clubs around Europe, however the star forward has pledged to stay with Atletico Madrid for another season.

Real Madrid 2 Real Zaragoza 3
Goals (Real Madrid): Ramos '61, Benzema '84
Goals (Real Zaragoza): Lafita '41 + '77, Gabi '54 pen.

Real Sociedad 2 Barcelona 1
Goals (Real Sociedad): Ifran '71, Pietro '82 pen.
Goals (Barcelona): Thiago '29

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Atletico Madrid 1
Goals (Atletico Madrid): Sergio Aguero '80.

SHORT PASSES

Bolton Claims Inaugural Player of the Year Award

Melbourne Heart FC's Clint Bolton has capped off an outstanding season in goal by claiming the Club's inaugural Player of the Year award. Bolton held off a challenge from joint runners-up Wayne Sroj and Josip Skoko to secure the crown in a tightly fought contest, with Aziz Behich and Matt Thompson rounding out the top five.

Awards Summary
 Player of the Year – Clint Bolton
 Supporters' Player of the Year – Aziz Behich

Clubman Award – John Aloisi
 Golden Boot – John Aloisi
 Chairman's Award – Ben Coonan
 Volunteer of the Year – Eugene Brazzale

Young Star Commits To Glory
 One of Australia's most promising teenagers, Jesse Makarounas has joined Perth Glory for the next two Hyundai A-League seasons.

Makarounas, who has just turned 17, has spent the last year at the AIS in Canberra.

Bridges Announces Retirement

Newcastle Jets Captain Michael Bridges has announced his retirement. Bridges who played over 200 games in the English Premier League has accepted a position within the club, as International Football & Business Development Manager.

Petratos out for four weeks

Sydney FC young gun Dimitri Petratos will be sidelined for the next four weeks after sustaining an ankle injury at training.

The 18-year-old will not travel with his Sydney FC teammates for their 12-day trip of Korea and Japan which features ACL clashes with Suwon Samsung Bluewings (Tuesday 3 May) and Kashima Antlers (Tuesday 10 May).

World Cup Draw for Young Socceroos

The Qantas Young Socceroos have been drawn in Group C, alongside Ecuador, Costa Rica and Spain, for the FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011 which will be played from 29 July to 20 August.

SERBIA

	P	GD	Pts
1 Partizan	25	63:18	65
2 Crvena zvezda	24	43:12	59
3 Vojvodina	25	40:10	59
4 Rad	25	34:16	47
5 Spartak	25	26:19	36
6 Javor	25	19:17	36
7 Smederevo	25	23:25	34
8 Sloboda Sevojno	25	28:31	34
9 OFK Beograd	25	22:25	34
10 BSK	25	21:30	29
11 Borac	25	16:26	28
12 Jagodina	25	19:26	27
13 Indija	25	23:42	20
14 Metalac	25	15:33	19
15 Hajduk	24	17:32	18
16 Cukaricki	25	8:54	4

CROATIA

	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	27	+39	67
2 Hajduk	27	+22	51
3 Split	27	+14	46
4 Inter Zaprešić	27	0	41
5 Cibalia	27	+10	40
6 Karlovac	27	-2	38
7 Rijeka	27	-4	37
8 Slaven Belupo	27	+4	36
9 Osijek	27	+1	35
10 Zadar	27	-4	34
11 Varaždin	27	-6	33
12 Šibenik	27	-2	30
13 Zagreb	27	-8	30
14 Lokomotiva	27	-13	29
15 Istra 1961	27	-20	27
16 Hrvatski dragovoljac	27	-31	20



Alex Milic

Serbia

Partizan defeated Red Star in the 140th Eternal Derby over the Easter Long Weekend with a lone goal to Ghanian striker Prince Tagoe.

Red Star dominated the first half and failed to take advantage of their chances while in the second half Partizan pressed their opponents and put pressure on their shaky backline which at the end produced a goal and three valuable points which will take them even closer to a fourth consecutive Serbian SuperLiga title.

In Round 25 the league leaders extended their lead with a comfortable 2:0 win at home to Jagodina. Influential captain Mladen Krstajic opened the scoring early on and star striker Tagoe confirmed the win in the second half. Red Star takes on Hajduk in the only remaining match of Round 25.

Smederevo - OFK Beograd 1:0
 Stojanovic '52'
Cukaricki - Indija 1:2
 Petronijevic '57', Jovanovic '11', Isidorovic '90'
Javor - Metalac 1:0
 Hadžibulić '63'
BSK - Sloboda Sevojno 0:1
 Vasilje '26'
Vojvodina - Rad 2:0
 Stevanovic '60', Jao '90'
Spartak - Borac 1:2
 Vujaklija '42' - Petronijevic '36', Damjanovic '51'

Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb celebrated their 13th Croatian Prva Liga title and fifth consecutive following yet another win and thanks to Hajduk losing once more. It's been a relatively easy season for Dinamo in the league under Vahid Halilhodzic whose experience has been enormous.

"If someone told me that we would win the title this easy, I wouldn't have be-



Ljupko with the European Cup.

range a tryout. I told them to come to Belgrade in a couple of days and they did. At the tryout I saw this kid do wonders with the ball and I immediately asked our head coach Velibor Vasovic to schedule an afternoon practice session at the main stadium so that I could see the kid one more time. It was obvious we had a classy player on our hands, and I initiated the contract proceedings right away. Our lawyer informed us that we wouldn't have to pay a transfer fee to Dinamo so Robert's father Duro and I agreed everything in five minute."

Prosinecki quickly became a regular in the Red Star team during the 87/88 season playing alongside the best players in the country such as Dragan Stojkovic and Bosko Durovski. With the FIFA Youth World Cup being played in October 1987 he was a vital member of the Yugoslavia side that went on to win the tournament and Prosinecki was awarded with the Best Player of the Tournament award ahead of Dinamo mid-fielder Zvonimir Boban.

Prosinecki was one of the best youngsters in Europe at the time and was also

part of the Yugoslavia World Cup 1990 squad where he scored against the UAE and was voted the Best Young Player of the tournament. The following season was by far his best as a footballer. He and his Red Star side went on to lift the European Cup in 1991 with Prosinecki being a key player scoring some excellent goals and leading the side through midfield following the departure of Dražan Stojković.

He would go on to play for both Real Madrid and Barcelona before going back to Dinamo which was at the time called Croatia Zagreb becoming the captain and key player but despite that he was owed over 1 million dollars in unpaid wages.

In the Croatian National side Prosinecki was coached by Miroslav Blazević who never respected his talents, a great example of this was the World Cup 1998 Semi Final in which Prosinecki came on in the 90th minute to the disgust of the fans and the player himself. Although he scored two goals at the tournament one in the Bronze medal match against The Netherlands, Prosinecki said he

would never play for Croatia as long as Blazević was the manager.

Blazević went on to say he used the eating diploma remark as a motivation tool but no one was buying this.

In his latter playing days he became a legend at Portsmouth despite playing one season at the club in the First Division and ended his playing career with spells at Olimpija Ljubljana and Zagreb.

After doing his coaching badges 'Večelić Zuti(Great Blondie)' his nickname, was appointed Assistant Manager of the Croatian National Team in 2006, led by former teammates Slaven Bilic and goalkeeper coach Tomislav Ivković. The Croatian side played fantastic football under Bilic and Co and reached the Euro 2008 Quarter Finals falling to Turkey in one of the most dramatic of finishes in tournament history. During his time as Assistant Manager he was a huge influence to many players especially Ivan Rakitić who said

"Prosinecki is a person that helped me a lot, he is also my idol and he not just helped me as a player but as a person too."

In December 2010 he was appointed as Red Star Belgrade manager a decision which was a media frenzy and sparked mixed reactions among the people of Serbia and Croatia. Prosinecki is a Red Star legend where the fans love and respect him, in Croatia the situation is different with reports even suggesting Prosinecki wanted the Dinamo job but they didn't want to hear nothing of it! There is a minority that is happy for Prosinecki and see this as a stepping stone to future relations between Serbia and Croatia in football matters.

Red Star under Prosinecki has so far played fantastic football something that was missing from the Marakana Stadium in recent years. He has implied an attacking game in which the key is to keep possession of the ball as much as possible through short passes (Barcelona like) and instilled no nonsense discipline. The fans are back to watch this football and membership numbers have risen almost 50%. The title race hasn't been this close and dramatic in years and Prosinecki could already in his short stay as Manager at the club win the League title which would make him a god amongst the fans even though he's already an icon of the Red Star badge.



Injury Time

Brought to you by

Elastoplast

With Victory Physio Daniel Jones

Hope you all had a fantastic and safe Easter long weekend. We at the Victory had a few days off but are now busy preparing for our next Asian Champions League match against Gamba Osaka on Wednesday the 4th May at Etihad Stadium.

In this weeks article I though it would be good to focus on some key points for injury prevention along with some key recovery principles.

Fortunately, most sports injuries can be treated effectively, and most people who suffer injuries can return to their original level

of physical activity after an injury. More importantly, many sports injuries can be prevented if people take the proper precautions.

Whether an injury is acute or chronic, it is important to not try to "work through" the pain of an injury. Continuing the activity only causes further harm and could lengthen the time spent on the sidelines.

Here are some key preventatives and recovery principles we use here at the Melbourne Victory.

Key points for injury Prevention

• **Warm-up** – prepares the body for exercise. Needs to take the body through the full range of activities required for the training session. Must raise core temperature and activate the neural system for optimal muscle output and coordination.

• **Stretching** – generally dynamic stretching occurs as part of a warm-up. Static stretches should not be performed immediately prior to intense exercise but can be used during the week to improve flexibility.

• **Fully rehabilitate past injuries** – to prevent reoccurrences and improve performance. Fully healing post-injury can take 12 weeks, and full rehabilitation longer in some instances.

• **Wear appropriate protective equipment** – including quality, well-fitted football boots, shin guards, padded shorts when necessary and mouth guards. Mouth guards can be used to prevent cuts, tooth injuries, concussion, neck injuries and jaw fractures.

• **Protective strapping** – to protect and support previous injuries. As directed by your physiotherapist.

To learn more about taping techniques I suggest you visit <http://www.elastoplastsport.com.au/Injury/TapingTechniques.aspx>

• **Conditioning** – players need to be fit, coordinated, agile, strong and powerful. These attributes cannot be developed sufficiently in football sessions alone.

Key recovery principles

• **Rest** – is the most important recovery strategy! The body is amazingly adaptable if given enough time to fully recover between training bouts. High intensity training every day without adequate rest often leads to injury.

• **Fueling the body** – to avoid fatigue with a balanced diet and 8 glasses of water per day (plus an extra glass before, and every fifteen minutes during sport). Carbohydrates are a major fuel source and protein is important to build muscle.

• **Cold-water immersion** – used in many sports to assist recovery, reduce muscle soreness and lower core temperature after exercise.

Following these principles will



Archie Thompson scores at a price for Victory against Glory last season when pulling his hamstring just after finding the back of the net. Photo: ANITA MILAS

For further taping techniques visit <http://www.elastoplastsport.com.au/Injury/TapingTechniques.aspx> or alternatively download the iPhone application

*Daniel can be consulted at Lifecare Croydon Sports Medicine.



BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



Use Thunder's money to speed up international clearances

WHAT a bad week for Dandenong Thunder, with points deducted from the VPL front-runners after a tribunal hearing regarding incidents arising from their game with Bentleigh Greens. Their next four games will have to be played behind closed doors and a heavy fine was also imposed.

The cynics out there will be hoping that with some more funds at their disposal, FFV will be better placed to deal with a perceived problem regarding obtaining an International Transfer Certificate (which I'm told involves, among other things, sending a fax to the FFA).

As I write I am led to believe that some international clearances will not be addressed until shortly before the VPL transfer window opens.

Given that getting the ITC Clearance Request finalised can then take another three to four weeks, the apparent inability to assist players and clubs from having it completed as close to the opening of the new window is baffling. Especially when some players were even allowed to be registered outside of the transfer window.

On that last point, I wonder if anyone from the FFV is willing to explain why the arrival of Ljubo Milicevic to the VPL was initially delayed by two weeks?



William gets the runs on the board with Kate. But more importantly, does anyone know the score from the Bentleigh game...?

If A-League players were allowed to join VPL clubs outside the window, why wasn't it allowed immediately? And if they aren't, why was it allowed at all? The fact that there was such a delay in coming to a decision is worrying at the very least and is well worthy of further investigation.

And perhaps the right honourable Warwick Smith AM could be the man for that job, as it is he who will be conducting the latest government review into Australian football.

Some might say you don't really need to conduct an expensive review after wasting \$45 million to get just one World Cup hosting bid vote.

Arsene's antics joy to behold

NOTHING beats watching

Arsene Wenger carry on like a two-year old after a penalty is awarded against Arsenal. Well, not much at least.

Spare a thought for the VPL clubs who had to miss the Wedding of the Century to play their games on Friday night. Poor fixturing indeed from the Republicans at FFV. First they made Royal Richmond change their name to Westgate in the 1980s and now this. What next?

All the best, Richard

FINALLY, best wishes to Berwick City (and formerly Nuawadung City) goalkeeper Richard Marnell after undergoing surgery last week for a brain tumour. I'm sure the entire football community's thoughts are with him that he may enjoy a swift and full recovery.

THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas



After a 2 Week break for Easter, where Club Powerbrokers took some time out for themselves, a term referred to lately as "Me Time", we return for another fun filled Round of Football.

Speaking of Club Powerbrokers, one Punter asked me exactly what is a Club Powerbroker.

Simple answer was given, A Club Powerbroker can generally be described as someone that makes things happen at His Club, be it Signing Pop Stars, Sacking Pop Stars, or arguing with other Club Powerbrokers about Pop Stars.

Club Powerbrokers spend more time at their Club, than they do at Home, and when they are not at their Club, they can be found at other Clubs, watching their Matches.

They enjoy copious amounts of alcohol, ranging from J Walker to V Bitter and have an eye for the fairer gender, only problem is that, the latter is scarce around Soccer Grounds, so they search for these at other 'Venues'

And last but not least, they are generally described in their Build as Non Athletic.

Enough on Club Powerbrokers, over to FFA Headquarters we go, where according an article written by the Age's Michael Lynch, FFA El Supremo Ben Buckley



And finally, a wafer thin mint monsieur....?

has got a touch excited by the value of the recent AFL Broadcasting deal, as he believes that it will increase the amount that the FFA will receive when the A-League TV Rights are negotiated with Foxtel.

Rest assured Ben, the way the crowds are going at the minute with the A-League, if I were you, I would grab the first offer put to you, as televising matches with empty Stadiums is hardly the stuff that will generate both interest, and sponsorships dollars.

Nasal Spray Technology samples will be shipped up shortly.

Staying with the FFA, seems that they will shortly come under the microscope, as Federal

Senator Mark Abib, famous for his plotting to oust Kevin Rudd, is sniffing around for a Please Explain regarding the usage of Federal Government Funds that has been allocated for use on our Fine Game.

Seems the 44 Million spent on our World Cup bid that was so effective that it secured us one solitary vote, is high on his agenda.

Until Next Week

This is Katsa - Just as You've known him.

THIS IS FOOTBALL

www.thisisfootball.com.au

CLUB KIT SPECIALIST

P: 03 9428 3066

189 SWAN STREET, RICHMOND, VIC 3121. Email: thisisfootball@live.com.au
Receive your obligation free Club Kit quote today!

Leo Baumgartner

BLAST FROM THE PAST

With Roy Hay

IN the previous column we looked at the career of Reg Date, the last and one of the greatest exponents of the old style physical game played in this country in the years before and just after the Second World War. Leo Baumgartner first came to Australia with FK Austria from Vienna in 1957. A year later he was back in Sydney having agreed to join the Prague club. He represented the new generation of highly skilled continental European migrants who were to dominate the game in the next twenty years.

Born in Vienna in 1932, he had to flee the city during the Second World War with his mother when his house was bombed. He later returned and after playing with local clubs joined FK Rapid where he quickly showed the talent that had him selected for the national Under-18 team at the age of 16. After two seasons at FC Kapfenberg he was invited to join FK Austria the glamour team of Vienna. He went on several international tours with his new club in Europe, North Africa and South America, so by the time he came to Australia with them in 1957 he was a regular first team star and had played in a B international for Austria.

The Sydney entrepreneur Max Gold had brought FK Rapid to Australia in 1956 and the following year he arranged the Austria tour. After a first up defeat against Australia in Newcastle, Baumgartner and his team hit their straps and only lost one more game on tour to the Hungarian side Ferencvaros which was on tour at the same time. Nine of its eleven games produced 51 goals for and only 23 against. Both defeats were reversed in subsequent games, with Baumgartner scoring a hat-trick against Australia and a goal in the three-one win over Ferencvaros. It was reported at the time that the club lost £5,000 on the tour.

Baumgartner and Karol Jaros were attracted by their Australian experience and the following year the masseur of FK Austria got in touch with his Czech contacts at Prague in Sydney. Things moved quickly and both players arrived to a massive welcome from both club and league officials. At that time the newly formed Federation of New South Wales Soccer Clubs was in dispute with the Amateur Association and the capture of these and other foreign stars without paying transfer fees was to result in Australia's suspension from FIFA membership.

Initially Prague struggled to incorporate the new players but finished fourth in the league and hence in the play-offs for the premiership. Auburn beat Prague in the first semi-final and went on to take the title. In 1959 however,

Baumgartner led a very powerful Prague team to victory in the Ampol Cup at the start of the season, then with the addition of three more players from FK Austria, Walter Tamndl, Andrea Shagi and Toni Schwarz, went on to win the league and premiership. Ron Lord was the keeper and other players included Les Scheinflug, Ken Hiron, Kevin O'Neil and Stewart Sherwin. The addition of the dynamic Herbert Ninaus, another Austrian international, and his brother Erwin, completed the stellar line-up. Baumgartner converted a penalty kick to win the grand final against Apia by three goals to two in pouring rain at Henson Park in Marrickville in front of 13,000 soaked fans.

Baumgartner also played for the Federation's representative team in 1959 against the visiting Costa Ricans from Deportivo Saprissa. He captained the side and led it to three victories. At the same time Heart of Midlothian from Scotland were touring under the auspices of the Australian Soccer Association but the war between the Association and the Federation kept most of the latter's stars, including Baumgartner, from playing against the Scots.

Changes at the club and perhaps Baumgartner's own sense of his worth led to his leaving Prague in 1960 and joining Canterbury where 'Uncle' Joe Vlasits was coaching a bunch of extraordinary Australian kids, including the Warren brothers, Johnny and Geoff, John Watkiss, Brian Smith and Ron Corry in goals. The addition of Baumgartner was the catalyst for an incredible season, in which Canterbury finished third in the league and got through to the grand final where it trounced Prague by five goals to two. All five forwards, including Baumgartner, scored for the winner. By now he was the undisputed star of the local game, nicknamed 'Sabrina' after a voluptuous personality of the 1950s. He was named 'Mr Soccer 1960'.

Though he was a soccer star, Baumgartner was only a part-timer and managed a canteen at a migrant hostel on the South Coast. In 1961 he transferred to South Coast United, but after only a few games there he was head-hunted by Apia and helped the club finish 6th in the league. In 1962 Baumgartner was appointed player-coach and he also coached the Federation representative team and the Croatian team in the second division! Never far from controversy Baumgartner was banned from playing for the Federation after he and Jaros obeyed an order from the club not to coach or play with the representative team. Apia reached the grand final in 1963 but was surprisingly beaten by South Coast led by Jim Kelly. Apia also lost to Slavia in the Australia Cup and Baumgartner was hauled be-

The Little Professor of Soccer



Leo Baumgartner using his head on the field. Most of the time he kept the ball on the deck.

Source: Leo Baumgartner, *The Little Professor of Soccer*, facing p. 14.



The Prague team, runner up to Canterbury-Marrickville in the 1958 Federation Cup. Back-row, left to right: Les Scheinflug, K Gust, Leo Baumgartner, M Radovnikovic, Sergio Gennari, O Toula. Centre: Karol Jaros. Front row: J Polivka, Ron Lord, E Ostruska.

Source: *The Little Professor of Soccer*, between pp. 182 & 183 and *Soccer World Annual*.



Leo Baumgartner (centre) watches the ball run into the net for Prague (?) against Hakoah.

Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

for the Committee to explain the defeats. Consequently he left to join Hakoah and played his first representative game for the Australian national team in 1964

against Everton.

Baumgartner continued to coach with success after his playing career was over. In 1970 he won the grand final with Yugal in another

mud bath, knocking out Frank Arok's St George Budapest, the favourite. He also coached Croatia, Marconi and the New South Wales State team in the 1970s.

Later he was director of coaching at Sydney United at the time when Mark Bosnich, Zeljko Kalac and Tony Popovic among others were coming through the youth and senior ranks. Talking to Johnny Warren in 2008 he said he was still involved with the development of the game on the New South Wales north coast. Since then he has run coaching courses for coaches, acted a regional director of coaching, won a premiership for Coffs Tigers and has just taken on another club, Sawtell which was in the doldrums. So he is still seeking to improve teams and players at 79.

In the interview with Johnny Warren, he stressed that the game he brought to Australia was the modern passing game with the ball kept on the deck as much as possible. He adheres to that philosophy to this day and he has been a key figure in the transformation of the code in this country.

Latin
Wrap

Francis Fields

COPA LIBERTADORES

Vélez Sarsfield of Argentina and Chile's Universidad Católica secured first-leg wins in the Copa Libertadores on Tuesday as the final 16 of Latin America's top international club tournament got underway.

Augusto Fernández hit an early double as Vélez cruised to a 3-0 home win over Ecuador's Liga de Quito, which finished with nine men, and Lucas Pratto scored both his team's goals as Católica posted a surprise 2-1 win at Brazil's Gremio, which also had a man sent off.

Fernández opened the scoring for Vélez against Liga in the eighth minute with a volley at the back post from Santiago Silva's left-wing cross.

The winger doubled his tally with a first time shot after cutting in from the right and finishing Juan Manuel Martínez' pass with a first-time shot just three minutes later.

"Obviously it was a good result to be three goals in front at this stage of the competition, but we played very well in the first half," said Fernández.

The Ecuadorean club's hopes of getting back in the game were dealt a further blow ten minutes after half time when Luis Bolaños was shown a second yellow card for a late tackle and was sent off.

From the ensuing free kick, the ball was worked wide to Emiliano Papa, who floated a cross that Liga goalkeeper Alexander Domínguez misjudged, allowing Sebastián Domínguez to head the third goal. Néicer Reasco became the second Liga player to receive a red card in the 69th.

Reduced to nine men, Liga had no answer and now face an uphill task to reach the quarterfinals.

Earlier Tuesday, Argentine striker Lucas Pratto scored his first goal for Católica at Gremio with a low shot from Marcelo Cafete's pass following a counterattack in the 29th minute.

Gremio suffered a further setback when striker Borges was shown a red card for elbowing defender David Henríquez six minutes later, but the Brazilian club leveled with a long-range strike from Douglas on the hour.

With Gremio pushing for a home win and leaving gaps in defense, Fernando Meneses found space on the right and sent a cross to the back post for Pratto to head the decisive goal in the 74th.

The win gives Chilean league champion Católica a valuable lead ahead of the return leg in Santiago.

Cruzeiro have gained a 2-1 advantage over Once Caldas in the Copa Libertadores Round of 16 as 2009 champions Estudiantes were held at home.

The Brazilian Serie A runners-up now head into the second leg against their Colombian opponents with two valuable away goals after Wallyson and José Ortígoza found the back of the net.

Cruzeiro goalkeeper Fabio produced a fine effort in goal to save several goal-bound efforts.

His opposite number Luis Enrique Martínez kept out on-loan Marseille forward Brandao's effort in the first before Dayro Moreno's effort crashed into the woodwork.

The Brazilians opened their ac-

Derby Wins For "La U", River And Santos



Universidad de Chile captain and defender José Rojas claiming his innocence to the match referee in a ill-tempered derby against Colo-Colo on the weekend.



Católica goalscorer Lucas Pratto in action against Gremio defender Gilson in a thrilling Copa Libertadores encounter last week in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

count in the 72nd minute through Wallyson and then doubled their lead ten minutes later through Paraguayan substitute José Ortígoza.

But Luis Núñez then pulled one back for the Colombians, who need to score two unanswered goals in the reverse leg in Brazil next Wednesday to progress to the quarter-finals.

Elsewhere, Santos of Brazil collected a handy 1-0 advantage in their first leg against Mexico's América, with AC Milan target Ganso scoring the solitary goal.

Argentinian Primera Division Apertura champions and 2009 Copa winners Estudiantes were frustrated by Paraguay's Cerro Porteño as the two sides played out a scoreless stalemate in La Plata.

Cerro Porteño goalkeeper Diego Barreto kept the home side at bay with a string of saves, while teammate and the competition's top-scorer Roberto Nanni had his effort beaten away in the first half.

Mexico's Jaguares recorded a 1-1 stalemate against Junior of Colombia.

Junior forward Luis Páez opened the scoring in the 7th minute in Chiapas, Mexico, but his goal was cancelled out by Jaguares' Colombian forward Jackson Martínez in the 57th minute.

NEWS
VENEZUELA

Spain have announced they will travel to Venezuela to play an international friendly on June 1. The Spanish football federation said Friday that the venue for the match will be decided in the coming days.

After that game, the world champions will travel to Boston to play the United States in another friendly set for June 4. Venezuela opens its Copa America campaign against Brazil on July 3.

BRAZIL

Santos have booked a place in the final of the Paulista, a competition contested by teams from the Brazilian state of São Paulo, after a Ganso inspired 2-0 victory away to São Paulo.

Both sides lined up in a similar formation with Ganso playing in the hole behind Santos' strike partnership of Zé Eduardo and Neymar. The home side took control of the

game in the early stages, controlling possession as Santos contented themselves with playing on the counter-attack, utilising the passing ability of Ganso.

With the game scoreless at half-time, the visitors switched to a 3-5-2 system, which paid dividends as they were then able to take control in the decisive midfield area.

Santos took the lead on the hour mark when a pinpoint accurate cross from Ganso picked out former Manchester City and Shakhtar midfielder Elano, who headed home into the net.

The away side made sure of their place in the final 12 minutes later with a wonderfully worked goal as the combination of Ganso and Neymar proved too hot for the São Paulo defence to handle.

Ganso began the counter-attack by feeding Neymar, who beat several defenders before returning it back to his fellow attacker and finding the back of the net.

Santos will now go on to face the winners of the second semi-final, to be played tomorrow between Palmeiras and Corinthians.

CHILE

Early Sunday morning this last weekend, Santiago was divided with one of its three main derbies in the domestic championship with Universidad de Chile hosting giants Colo-Colo with a 2-1 win.

It was a pulsating match as Colo-Colo took the lead through Ezequiel Miralles, silencing the more than 60,000 fans blue-coloured supporters, 66 minutes into the second half.

The match already caused controversy with policing and authorities only allowing up to two thousand Colo-Colo away supporters to the country's biggest arena for security purposes.

Just before full-time, recently naturalised citizen Gustavo Canales equalised with a dubious penalty decision in the 87th minute to lock aside the scores at one-all.

On the ninetieth minute however, after a rather poor and physical match, the blues of Universidad de Chile broke away on the right flank.

With Colo-Colo looking to secure a vital away draw and with star playmaker Cristóbal Jorquera out injured, carried off in the first half, Universidad de Chile had

other plans and a winning header from substitute and club legend, Diego Rivarola put the game beyond doubt with a stunning cross-goal header much to the despair of Colo-Colo's Argentinean coach Américo Gallego, his players and fans.

The win gave Universidad de Chile 28 points and second-spot behind rivals Universidad Católica who lead whilst Colo-Colo lies with 17 points in tenth position.

CHILE Friendly Canceled

Chilean football's ANFP has confirmed that the friendly against the Socceroos had been postponed upon negotiations two weeks ago and have cancelled their friendly in New York against Giovanni Trappattoni's Ireland team.

Talks in the past week highlighted the need to prioritise international commitments with the Copa América in Argentina to be held in July and to avoid disruption of the domestic Apertura championship with the release of players.

Apart from the fact that coach Claudio Borghi is afraid of flying and has already toured last year at the helm of Boca Juniors when he headed their Australasian tour to both elbourne Victory and Wellington Phoenix.

He stressed that the long-distance between the countries was a factor to consider.

The June 3 fixture has been called off for a later FIFA scheduled date to be held. One must remember that the fixture was originally signed under former Federation boss Harold Mayne-Nicholls and former coach, Argentine World Cup tactician Marcelo Bielsa.

COLOMBIA

Former South American champions Once Caldas became the second Colombian team in a week to face a 30-day suspension last Tuesday over unpaid wages to their players.

Caldas owe the squad 1.08 billion Colombian pesos (\$600,000) in wages and social security payments, according to local media reports, and had been given five days' grace to pay up, governing body Coldeportes said on its website (www.coldeportes.gov.co).

"If Once Caldas gets up to date with its labour and social security obligations towards its sportsmen ... this suspension measure will be lifted immediately," Coldeportes

added.

Deportes Quindío were handed a suspended 30-day ban last week over unpaid wages before the club agreed to meet part of the debt.

They fielded a junior side swamped 5-0 by Millonarios on April 10 while their professional players were on strike, but played and won last weekend.

Failure to pay on time is endemic in Colombian professional soccer with several first and second division clubs in debt to their players.

With the big road victory, River jump back into serious contention for the Clausura title after a surprising loss a week ago at home to Godoy Cruz.

Sitting in first for the time being, River will host All Boys next week.

Racing, who fell to Argentinos a week ago, will travel down the road to play Arsenal de Sarandi next week.

CONCACAF
Champions League update

Monterrey had history on its side. With a 1-0 victory Wednesday night over Real Salt Lake, Monterrey claimed the CONCACAF Champions League title—the sixth straight for a team from Mexico.

Monterrey qualified for the FIFA Club World Cup in December in Japan. It was Monterrey's first continental title in its 66-year history.

Real Salt Lake was trying to become the first Major League Soccer team to advance to the Club World Cup in Japan, but came up empty in front of a sellout crowd of 20,378 at Rio Tinto Stadium.

That's what happened in stoppage time at the end of the first half on consecutive give-and-goes between Sergio Santana and Humberto Suazo.

Santana avoided a defender and gave the ball back to Suazo, who was there to put the ball past goalkeeper Nick Rimando for the game's lone score.

Suazo, a Chilean international player, was a thorn in RSL's side during the first leg in Mexico. He gave Monterrey a 2-1 lead in the first game only to have Javier Moraless tie it in the 89th minute.

Real Salt Lake seemingly had everything in its favor. They had a week to prepare for the game while Monterrey was playing its eighth game in 27 days. Plus, Real was riding a 37-game unbeaten streak at Rio Tinto, with its last loss coming 23 months earlier.

Monterrey would outlast RSL, which squandered early scoring chances and couldn't convert late even though a 1-1 tie would have been enough to advance because of the away goal advantage it earned in the first leg in Mexico.



Mike Salter

The Sutherland Sharks maintained their slender lead at the top of the NSW Premier League by defeating Bankstown City 2-1 in the rain on Saturday evening. Details of that encounter can be found below. In Saturday's other fixture, the Bonnyrigg White Eagles finally secured their first win of the campaign, downing Rockdale 2-1 at home despite finishing the game with only nine men.

Sunday's action saw Sydney Olympic remain within a point of the leaders by defeating APIA in emphatic fashion; two goals from red-hot striker Alex Smith helped the men from Belmore to a 4-1 away win. Sydney United went down 2-1 to Blacktown City at Lily Homes Stadium, while a single goal from Keith Shevlin was enough for Marconi to defeat their hosts the South Coast Wolves 1-0. The match between Parramatta FC and Manly was washed out.

Sutherland Sharks 2-1 Bankstown City

After a scoreless first half at Seymour Shaw on Saturday evening, Sutherland struck twice in the second period to take the points against an uninspired Bankstown.

With the heavy conditions militating against fluent football, there were few chances of note in the opening twenty minutes.



Jarrod Ellis

After taking a week off for Easter the Hyundai QSL returned to action over the weekend. Not all was as it should be however, in the days leading up to the break QSL expansion club Southern Cross United announced that they were withdrawing from the competition.

Despite the season only being six games old the club and Football Queensland published a press release on Wednesday the 27th of April stating that the senior QSL side would be withdrawing immediately.

Speculation over the viability of the venture amongst the Brisbane football community had been considerable ever since the announcement of the formation of the club for the QSL. It seemed the club was experiencing difficulties even from the start of the season as they shifted their home games from Dittmer Park to Brisbane Strikers home ground Perry Park.

Those reservations eventually seemed founded when the withdrawal was made public, the club citing financial difficulties as the reason for their inability to continue.

Club President Brett Travis cited lack of sponsorship as the main contributor, "The withdrawal is disappointing to the team and coaching staff but having several key sponsors inundated during the

Sutherland Down Bankstown To Stay Top

The hosts had the majority of possession, but found penetration difficult.

Out of the blue, on 22 minutes, Sutherland's Sam Awad flicked a header onto the Bankstown post from Nick Tsattalios's left-wing cross. The near-miss brought the game belatedly into life, and there were chances at both ends in the succeeding minutes; Shannon Burgin's long shot forced Sutherland keeper Nathan Denham into action, and Tsattalios should have done better after Panni Nikas played him through on goal on half an hour.

The first half simmered down after this brief flurry, and the crowd must have felt somewhat cheated as the teams entered the sheds. Fortunately, the second half was to prove enjoyably vibrant.

Sutherland veteran Jim Bakis showed his intent with an audacious chip just a few minutes after the restart, which was held with some difficulty by Zlatko Joseski. On 54 minutes, it was Bakis who provided a sublime through-ball from the right for Awad, who raced on into the area and finished powerfully despite the attentions of two Bankstown defenders.

Bankstown, who had been on the back foot for much of the match, now came forward in numbers. After Sutherland's Matthew Bailey had a shot blocked on the line, an intricate Bankstown move on the right ended with lone striker Amin Hadid firing a shot against the



Goalmouth action from the FNSW Premier League as Blacktown and APIA battle it out yesterday.
Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW

base of the Sutherland post. The visitors' assault continued, with Freddie Graham forcing Denham to punch a right-footed thunderbolt clear; from the ensuing play, Bankstown left-back Chris Petrovski thumped the ball just wide.

On 63 minutes, Petrovski was centrally involved again as the away side equalised. Fouled nastily by Nikas in his own half, Petrovski picked himself up to send in a teasing left-footed free kick, which was headed in amidst poor Sutherland marking by defender David Gardiner.

Only two minutes later, however, Sutherland were back in

front. Receiving from Michael Katz, Awad cleverly released Tsattalios on the left, and the former Sydney FC man's well-flighted cross was headed in from point-blank range by Bailey. It was almost three soon afterwards, when Steven Krsteski nearly put through his own goal from a left-wing corner.

Bankstown had their last chance of note on 81 minutes, when the tireless Burgin received the ball in ample space in the middle; a heavy first touch, however, allowed Denham to scurry off his line and gather. It was Sutherland who looked more likely to add to the score as the minutes

ticked away; Bailey had two half-chances to extend his scoring streak in the closing stages, and Bakis whistled a free kick over the bar with almost the last kick of the game. Another important win for the leaders, as they seek to repeat their 2009 success.

NSW Results

ROUND 6:
FIRST GRADE:
Sutherland Sharks 2 (Sam Awad 54m Matthew Bailey 65m) Bankstown City 1 (David Gardiner 64m), Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 (Nathan Elasi 27m Tynan Diaz 86m) Rockdale City Suns 1 (Own goal 17m), South Coast Wolves 0 Marconi Stallions 1 (Keith Shevlin 22m), Parramatta Eagles Manly United FC Washed Out, Blacktown City FC 2 (Milrad Simonovic 26m Zachary Cairncross 38m) Sydney United 1 (Luka Glavas 28m pen), APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 (Christopher James 52m) Sydney Olympic 4 (Robert Mileski 13m Alexander Smith 35/59m Philip Makry 53m).

GRADE 20:
Sutherland Sharks 2 Bankstown City 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Rockdale City Suns 2, South Coast Wolves 2 Marconi Stallions 1, Parramatta Eagles Manly United FC Washed Out, Blacktown City FC 3 Sydney United 3, APIA Leichhardt Tigers Sydney Olympic Washed Out.

Next Round

Bankstown City vs Sydney Olympic
Jensen Park 7:00 PM Sat 7/5

APIA Leichhardt Tigers vs Parramatta
Lambert Park 7:00 PM Sat 7/5

Manly Utd vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Cromer Park 3:00 PM Sun 8/5

Rockdale City vs South Coast Wolves
Ildinden Sports Centre 3:00 PM Sun 8/5

Marconi Stallions vs Blacktown City FC
Marconi Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 8/5

Sydney United vs Sutherland Sharks
Sydney Utd Sports Centre 4:00 PM Sun 8/5

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sutherland Sharks	6	4	0	2	10	4	14	
2 Sydney Olympic	6	4	1	1	11	4	7	13
3 Sydney United	5	3	1	1	12	5	7	10
4 Marconi Stallions	5	2	1	2	6	4	2	8
5 Bonnyrigg We	5	1	0	4	5	4	1	7
6 Blacktown City	6	2	3	1	8	8	0	7
7 Bankstown City	6	2	3	1	6	9	-3	7
8 APIA Leichhardt	6	1	2	3	8	11	-3	6
9 South Coast W	6	2	4	0	6	11	-5	6
10 Manly United	5	0	1	4	7	8	-1	4
11 Rockdale City	5	1	3	1	4	10	-6	4
12 Parramatta FC	5	0	3	2	4	7	-3	2

Queensland Results

Capricorn Cougars 1 (Davey 11)
Sunshine Coast 14 (Holmes 13,25,37,41,87,90, Knight 9,35, Henderson 82, Blackman 20, Hicks 28,63,88, Brazenale 90)

Bundaberg Spirit 1 (Youngberry 45)
FNQ Bulls 3 (Rusch 17, Ruiz 24, McGrath 80)

Gold Coast 1 (M Hilton 43 pen)
Whitsunday Miners 2 (Corte 34, Craig 68)

NQ Razorbacks 1 (Crowley 90)
Qld Academy Sport 1 (Ronto 25)

Next Round

Brisbane Strikers vs Gold Coast Stars
07-May 7:00pm

Capricorn Cougars vs Bundaberg Spirit
07-May 7:00pm

FNQ Bulls vs NQ Razorbacks
07-May 8:00pm

Sunshine Coast vs Whitsunday Miners
08-May 2:00pm

QAS vs BYE

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast FC	7	6	1	0	28	3	25	19
2 Brisbane Strikers	5	4	0	1	18	6	12	12
3 NQ McDonald's	5	3	1	3	14	10	4	10
4 Queensland Academ	6	2	3	1	12	8	4	9
5 FNQ Bulls	5	2	2	1	10	7	3	8
6 Gold Coast Stars	5	2	1	2	8	9	-1	7
7 Whitsunday Miners	5	1	3	1	7	9	-2	6
8 Southern Cross U	5	1	1	3	8	12	-4	4
9 Bundaberg Spirit	5	0	1	4	4	19	-15	1
10 Capricorn Cougars	6	0	1	5	5	31	-26	1



QSL action between Gold Coast Stars and Whitsunday Miners. Photos: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

recent floods, it is impossible for them to honour their commitments to us, and our hope for them is a speedy recovery in these difficult times."

The situation is a blow to the league and will now see one club facing a bye each round. It isn't all bad news however as the playing squad are now on the market for other clubs and after the success of former Southern Cross United squad member Commins Menapi at Bundaberg other QSL clubs will no doubt be on the lookout for quality in season signing.

Round 7 kicked off over the weekend, sans Southern Cross, their match against Brisbane Strikers having to be cancelled.

Capricorn Cougars were in action against Sunshine Coast though, but it was really only the Fire who were undertaking any kind of action on the pitch. The visitors gave the Cougars an absolute hiding, knocking in fourteen goals to humiliate the home side 14-1.

Washington Gonzales would have been despondent with his side's performance, 8-1 down at half time their performance didn't improve in the second, conceding six more goals, five in the final twelve minutes.

Tyson Holmes was in imperious form, the 2009 and 2010 QSL Player of the Year struck six goals, emphasising the gulf in class between Sunshine Coast and their opponents.

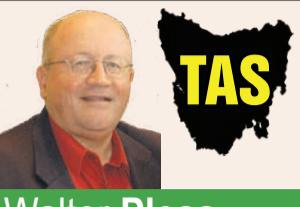
Jason Hicks also hit a hat-trick, the kiwi import backing up his boasts

of his new club being able to go the entire season undefeated with good performances to date. The other game on Saturday night was a more run of the mill affair, Bundaberg playing host to FNQ Bulls at Martens Oval. Bundaberg have been looking for their first win of the season, recording a draw and three losses to date, leaving them in the all too familiar place of bottom of the QSL ladder.

FNQ Bulls are no pushover though and despite Bundaberg's new sign-

ings and best efforts they comfortably accounted for the home side 3-1. As is so often the case David Ruiz and Joe Rusch did the damage for the Bulls, putting them 2-0 up by the 25th minute. Shane Youngberry pulled one back for the Spirit but any hopes of a draw from the home side were effectively killed off in the 80th minute when Peter McGrath added a third for the visitors.

Glenorchy Knights move off bottom



Walter Pless

Glenorchy Knights earned their first league win of the season and moved off the foot of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League ladder on Saturday, downing Beachside 3-2 away at Sandown Park.

Olympia Warriors dropped to last place when they lost 3-1 away at Clare Street against New Town Eagles, who are third.

Clarence United stayed second after beating the visiting Kingborough Lions United 1-0 at Wentworth Park on Saturday night.

Luke Atkin and a penalty by Bernhard Klasen gave Beachside hope against the Knights, but goals by Matthieu Gregoire and Will Roberts made it 2-2 at the interval.

Tom Sherman hit the winner for the Knights 6 minutes after the resumption to send Beachside into second-last spot.

Adam McKeown put Eagles ahead against Olympia in the 9th minute, but Brady Cronk equalised midway through the opening half.

It was then time for Eagles' new South Korean import, Jo Seong-Sun, to stamp his authority on the match.

In the 36th minute, he won a free-kick wide on the left. Ben White-

hall floated the set-piece into the box and it was Jo who headed past Michael McKenna to put the home side in front again.

With 15 minutes remaining, White-hall's pass found Jo on the right and he cut inside before unleashing a tremendous shot that hit the underside of the bar and bounced down and back up into the roof of the net to make it 3-1.

Olympia recently sacked their coach, Chris Hey, and Franco Previdi took over. He now has two league losses in a row and one State-wide Cup win to his credit.

Olympia have slumped to last place after being third-last under Hey.

Clarence had numerous chances in the opening half against Kingborough but were unable to score.

Clarence's three South Korean imports were creating plenty of chances, but poor finishing, particularly from Jae-Ho Lee, was letting them down. He ran on to some wonderful passes from Kyu-Jun Kim but kept shooting wide or into the side-netting.

Towards the end of the first half, Kingborough finally found space and time to launch a few counter-attacks, but they also were wide of the mark when it came to finishing.

The second half was a little more even, but the solitary goal came in the 57th minute when Seung-Woo Park put Kim through to shoot past David Leamey.

The win put Clarence level with leaders South Hobart, who were scheduled to play fourth-ranked Tilford Zebras on Sunday.

Northern Rangers stayed top of the Forestry Tasmania Northern



Olympia's Chris Kumpulainen (left) has his shot blocked by team-mate Josh Fielding in the 3-1 loss to New Town Eagles.

Premier League when they beat bottom-side Launceston United 3-2 away at Birch Avenue.

Mark Ambrose gave the visitors and reigning champions the lead, but Agele Luata equalised on the stroke of half-time.

United could manage only one goal in the second half, while Rangers secured victory with two penalties, the first by Todd Hingston after a foul on Chris Hunt and the second by Ambrose for a foul on Patrick Lanau-Atkinson.

Ulverstone moved into second place despite being held to a 1-1 draw away to Prospect Knights. Ulverstone moved ahead of Riverside Olympia, who had the bye, on

goal-difference.

Devonport City revived their title hopes with an important 2-1 away win over second-last Burnie United at Montello through goals by Chris McKenna and Cazimir Douglas.

Paul Bremner netted for Burnie.

Launceston City scored a crucial 3-0 away win over Somerset at Cardigan Street to move two points ahead of their 7th-placed hosts.

In Southern League One, leaders Hobart United and second-placed University both won to stay neck-and-neck at the top of the standings on 14 points apiece.

Hobart United whipped second-last DOSA 8-0 away, while University scraped home 2-1 away to

bottom-side Southern FC.

Riak Dhiue hit a hat-trick for Hobart United, while Gift Ochaya and Mynonge Kamba each scored a brace. Joseph Manarabu scored the remaining goal.

Metro had a vital 4-2 away win over Nelson Eastern Suburbs with two goals apiece to Shane Kent and Aaron Marney.

Ollie Ireland and Adam Mills replied for Nelson.

Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart FC	4	4	0	0	23	2	12
Northern Rangers	5	3	2	0	18	6	11
Riverside Olympic	5	3	0	2	17	11	9
Prospect Knights	4	2	1	1	12	5	7
Launceston City	4	2	1	1	11	5	7
Ulverstone	4	2	0	2	10	14	6
Launceston United	5	2	0	3	7	19	6
Burnie United	4	0	0	4	4	18	0
Somerset	5	0	0	5	7	29	0

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonport City	4	4	0	0	23	2	12
Northern Rangers	5	3	2	0	18	6	11
Riverside Olympic	5	3	0	2	17	11	9
Prospect Knights	4	2	1	1	12	5	7
Launceston City	4	2	1	1	11	5	7
Ulverstone	4	2	0	2	10	14	6
Launceston United	5	2	0	3	7	19	6
Burnie United	4	0	0	4	4	18	0
Somerset	5	0	0	5	7	29	0

10 MAN STRIKERS TURN UP HEAT FOR RED DEVILS



Adelaide Galaxy keeper Julian Torrensan moves to save a penalty from Croydon Kings' Matthew Hiern. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Nat Adamopoulos

Round 5 clash at Steve Woodcock Sports Centre saw a ten man Western Strikers have no trouble running away with a 3:1 win against home side Campbelltown City Red Devils. Strikers new signing Calvin Mbarga scored a brace as did super sub Stephen McNeill, with Matthew Deegan finding the net for the Red Devils.

With both sides sitting middle of the table it was an important match and Campbelltown City came ready to play. Within the first two minutes a Raf Frisina sliding volley had the Strikers keeper Takumi Takahashi outstretched tipping the ball away from danger with his right hand. Another reflex save coming in quick succession for a confident Takahashi to deny an early score for the Red Devils.

At opposite ends striker Andreas Wiens had a shot that was no trouble for Campbelltown's keeper Les Pogliacomi to palm away. The Red Devils were firing in shots with frequency but the Strikers defence was holding strong, with the Eritrean players Ermias Haile and Ambesager Yosief doing most of the mopping up.

When the Strikers did get the ball they tried to thread it through the Red Devils defence to their forwards Mbarga and Wiens but found the back wall of the two Michaels Menechella and captain D'Aloisio very difficult to penetrate. In the 25th minute of the match Yosief worked hard firstly blocking a Frisina to Kosta Mantis shot, then a Michael Paleka shot in that he headered away. Just two minutes

later the Red Devils attack on goals bared some fruit after a foul on tough man Joe Wright by Strikers backman Joseph Ciarrla earned a free kick that was kicked into the hot spot and headered down by an oncoming Matt Deegan.

To their credit the Strikers continued with confidence, Yosief brilliant with his defending time and time again the left sided central defender even having a crack himself with a free kick that he tried to skew round the far post. The Tenacious Mbarga was looking to score, a shot into his feet by his Captain Steve Stefanopoulos being sprayed way too high into the trees. On the stroke of half time another forward attack by the Strikers this time successful, Stefanopoulos passing to talented Chahine Noujaim who cut back to

a waiting Mbarga on the goal line to tap in the equalizer.

With the second half underway the Strikers quickly took control within minutes scoring a second goal after Wiens fired a ball in, Adrian D'Alfonso shooting from out wide only to hit the post but Mbarga in the right place at the right time drilling in the rebound past Pogliacomi.

The goal put Devils coach Jason Trimble's lads under the pump as the Strikers seemed to have grown another leg as the game continued. A quick change to boost strike power for Campbelltown City, Trimble bringing Oliver Totani on for Mantis, but it was Deegan that was doing some immense work for the Devils. Mention has to be made for the captains of both sides, leading by example with workhorse like

performances but it was the Strikers that were relentless with their forward movement.

With a double substitution imminent by Strikers coach Aldo Maricic, Daniele LaStella found himself earning his first yellow after fouling Deegan. In the 70th minute his brother Michele came on for a tiring D'Alfonso and another Eritrean Sam Tesfagabri took the place of the forward Wiens. Drama as Daniele LaStella received his second yellow for a deliberate handball with fifteen minutes to go, now the Strikers with the job ahead of them to hold on for the win.

In the 78th minute the big statured Stephen McNeill came on for Strikers captain Stefanopoulos and not only did they hold on but managed

to score a third. After Red Devil Vas Parhas brought down Michele LaStella in front of the coaches boxes with ten minutes to go, Yosief took the free kick, chipping it up high past an airborne Mbarga and D'Aloisio finding McNeill perfectly placed in the box to bring the ball down with his body and flick it past Pogliacomi. A brilliant end to what was an exciting display of entertaining and tenacious football.

April will be a month that Modbury Jets would want to forget as they were blown out of Jet Park by visitors MetroStars on Friday night to the tune of 10:1 with a bevy of goalscorers for the Stars.

After their recent 8 goal hiding by Adelaide City, coach Earl Pudler must be wondering what he can do to turn things around to prevent yo-yoing back down to the Premier League.

At Polonia Park the bubble burst for home side Croydon Kings as Adelaide Galaxy put three past them. Defender Michael Doyle scored first with experienced Stephen Kidd scoring a brace. The Kings had a chance to peg one back with a penalty being awarded but missing the opportunity it just wasn't their day. Two goals in the last few minutes of the match at Marden Sports Complex saw Adelaide Blue Eagles come away with a slim 2:1 win over flailing Raiders.

Blue Eagles had scored in the first half of the match but a desperate Raiders Matthew Muscroft scored the equalizer with only minutes to go, only to be overcome with a late winner by the Eagles. Coach John Kosmina will also have his work cut out for him to get some much needed points on the board.

Round 5 will be completed with Adelaide City taking on Para Hills Knights on Monday night at Adelaide City Park Oakden.

FFSA Results

Modbury 1 (Shane Pearce) v MetroStars 10 (Scott Tunbridge 2, James Yong 2, Perry Mitris 2, Steven Grelli, Jackson Groves, Michael Matricciani, Adam Van Dommele)
Best - Modbury - Todd McSorley, Jarrad Noel, Adam Carter - MetroStars - Adam Van Dommele, Scott Tunbridge, James Yong
Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 - Nicholas Bucco, Gianluca Lagati v Raiders 1 - Matthew Muscroft HT (1-0)
Best - Blue Eagles - Damien Di Mella, Gianluca Lagati, Christopher Annichiarico - Raiders - Adam Harris, Ante Jerkic, Nik Kuzman
Croydon 0 v Adelaide Galaxy 3 (Steven Kidd 2, Michael Doyle HT (0-2))
Best - Croydon - K D'Alfonso, Ben Tarabar, Michael Papacharalambous - Adelaide Galaxy - Michael Doyle, Steven Kidd, Steve De Giovannillo
Campbelltown 1 Mathew Deegan v Western Strikers 3 (Calvin Mbarga 2, Stephen McNeill HT (1-1))
Best - Campbelltown - Mathew Deegan, Michael D'Aloisio, Oliver Totani - Western Strikers - Ambesager Sium Yosief, Calvin Mbarga, Chahine Noujaim

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Adelaide Galaxy	5	4	1	0	10	2	8	13
2 Adelaide City	4	4	0	1	14	1	13	10
3 Metro Stars	5	3	1	1	14	4	10	10
4 Croydon	5	2	2	1	5	5	-1	7
5 Adelaide BE	5	2	1	2	5	6	-1	7
6 Western Strikers	5	2	0	3	7	6	1	6
7 Campbelltown	5	1	2	2	5	7	-2	5
8 Para Hills	4	1	1	2	3	6	-3	4
9 Raiders	5	0	1	4	4	9	-5	0
10 Modbury	5	0	1	4	2	23	-21	0

Next Round

Western Strikers vs Croydon Carnegie Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 7/May
Raiders vs Adelaide City Croatian Sports Centre 3:00 PM Sat 7/May
Metro Stars vs Campbelltown TK Shutter Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 7/May
Adelaide Galaxy vs Adelaide B Eagles Makris Park 7:00 PM Sat 7/May
Para Hills vs Modbury The Paddocks 7:00 PM Sat 7/May

Athena and Sorrento on the rise



Jacob Kagi

Floreat Athena's WA Premier League resurgence continued with an impressive 3-0 home victory over Bayswater City.

Athena's second straight victory was enough to see it finally move out of the drop zone with eight points from eight games, while Bayswater slipped to seventh spot and remained only four points above the bottom two.

The hosts looked much better than the side which picked up just two points from its first six games and effectively had the points wrapped up by half-time.

Mark Pritchard gave Floreat the lead after 12 minutes when he netted a free-kick from a dangerous position, before Liam Boland doubled the advantage after 30 and Michael Van Dongen scored the third on the stroke of half-time.

Bayswater did produce a more encouraging second half performance, but it was never going to be enough to overturn Floreat's dominant effort before the break.

Western Knights fell to fourth spot,

seven points behind first place,

with an upset 4-1 loss to Inglewood United.

United have impressed early in the season and climbed to third with the result, but few would have predicted they'd take the three points so comfortably.

Ndumba Makeche scored three goals in just 18 minutes to follow up Rory Grant's opener 12 minutes in and have the points wrapped up for Inglewood, who had a 4-0 lead after only 52 minutes.

David Trim scored for the Knights in stoppage time, but it was little consolation for a side which has lost consecutive games and conceded 10 goals in those two matches.

Perth SC moved within two points of league leaders Balcatta after recording a 1-0 win at Armadale.

Balcatta's match against the NTC gave Perth the chance to gain ground on its title rivals as matches against the youngsters don't count for points, and the powerhouse club took full advantage.

After a tight first half, Vlad Naumovski put Perth ahead after 62 minutes and it held on through the tense final minutes to claim the important victory.

But defeat leaves Armadale in the relegation zone with just seven points from its eight matches so far.

Cockburn City is also stuck in the drop zone after they lost 2-0 at home to Mandurah City.

Cockburn only has four points from its eight games and hasn't picked up any from its last six after goals to Sean Dash and Christian Paschkevitz were enough to get Mandurah the three points.



Armadale import James Robinson is closely marked by Perth SC defender Trent Kay in Saturday's game at Alfred Skeet Oval. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

Victory was Mandurah's first since round three and saw the South Metropolitan outfit climb to sixth spot with 11 points from 10 competitive matches, which is equalled only by ECU Joondalup.

Sorrento moved into the top five with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Joondalup on Friday night.

The Gulls built pressure in the first half and took advantage after the break and took advantage through

second half goals to Adam Luca, David Foster and Shaun Timmins. The result means ECU has lost four of its last five and hasn't won since round four.

The NTC produced its most encouraging performance of the season but Balcatta still prevailed 4-3.

The league leaders trailed on two separate occasions in a match that doesn't count for points but showed enough class in the end to overcome

the youngsters.

In Division One, Dianella White Eagles held Swan United to a 0-0 draw, Bunbury Forum Force beat Ashfield 3-0, Morley Windmills defeated Shamrock Rovers 2-1, Rockingham City scored two late goals to continue Canning City's dismal start with a 3-1 win and Wanneroo City beat Forrestfield United 2-0.

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	8	7	0	1	23	8	15	21
2 Perth SC	8	6	1	1	20	7	13	19
3 Inglewood United	8	5	0	3	21	13	8	15
4 Western Knights	8	4	2	2	13	13	0	14
5 Sorrento	8	4	1	3	13	12	1	13
6 Mandurah City	10	3	2	5	9	11	-2	11
7 Bayswater City	9	3	2	4	15	18	-3	11
8 Stirling Lions	9	3	2	4	14	17	-3	11
9 ECU Joondalup	10	3	2	5	10	19	-9	11
10 Floreat Athena	8	2	2	4	11	14	-3	8
11 Armadale	8	2	1	5	8	14	-6	7
12 Cockburn City	8	1	1	6	7	18	-11	4

Next Round

Inglewood United v Cockburn City
6PR Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 7/May

Armadale SC v Sorrento FC

Alfred Skeet Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 7/May

Perth SC v Balcatta SC

BGC Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 7/May

ECU Joondalup v Floreat Athena FC

ECU Joondalup Football Stdm 3PM Sat 7/May

Bayswater City v Western Knights

Frank Drago Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 7/May

Stirling Lions v NTC

Macedonia Park 3:00 PM Sun 8/May

BYE v Mandurah City

All Flags WA Premier League

HOLDERS START SEASON WITH 19-0 WIN



Russ Gibbs

Current Rock Premier League champions Canberra FC started the defence of their title with an emphatic 19-0 win against beleaguered Goulburn Strikers at Deakin Stadium with strikers Victor Yanes and Michael Spaleta scoring six goals each in the rout.

The home team was in ruthless form throughout and scored goals at regular intervals with Yanes and Michael Spaleta enjoying a field day in front of goal finishing at will. Perversely if it hadn't been for the heroics of Strikers goalkeeper Alex Whittle and some lackadaisical finishing from Canberra FC the score line would have been considerably worse for the visitors.

To their credit the Strikers never gave up and battled to the very end but were outclassed by a Canberra FC outfit that was in the mood for goals. Having already beaten Goulburn 16-0 in the loop Federation Cup meeting between the pair the expectation was that Canberra FC would prove too strong and it didn't take long for them to open their account.

Yanes grabbed the first of his double hat-trick in the sixth minute and Michael opened his account for the afternoon tally



Opening day action from the ACT Rock Premier League between Canberra FC and Goulburn Strikers. Photos: NICK GUOTH

four minutes later. By half-time the score had been cranked up to 8-0 and the second half continued in much the same vein with Canberra FC almost non-stop attacking and Whittle performing miracles to keep the score down.

As it was Josip Jadric, the speedy right winger, helped himself to a hat-trick whilst Adam Spaleta, who was quite quiet by his usually exalted standards, struck two.

John Glass and Anthony Bekavac added goals of their own in a one-sided romp.

The season kicked off in earnest on Saturday with Canberra City surprising Cooma Tigers by defeating the much-fancied outfit 4-0 at Nijong Oval. Misko Naumoski started his season in fine form in front of goal scoring twice in the opening eleven minutes on the way to a hat-trick, completed two minutes after the interval.

There was a comical end to the match with City adding their fourth goal with twenty minutes remaining, a Cooma defender lashing the ball into his own net after Nikola Taneski had been

bundled over in the area and the majority of the players having stopped assuming a penalty had been awarded.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Canberra Olympic enjoyed an excellent start to the season with a hard-fought 3-2 win over Belconnen United. The home team were first off the mark when skilful forward Domenic Giampaolo slotted home in the 28th minute. Their lead lasted barely six minutes though before Dustin Wells levelled matters. Two goals in six minutes around the hour mark from Giampaolo, his

second, and youngster Daniel Barac had Olympic in control of the destiny of the points. A late strike from Tom Rogic reduced the arrears and the Blue Devils wasted a good chance to draw level with almost the last kick of the game when denied in a one-on-one situation.

Meanwhile at the Riverside Stadium in Queanbeyan, Woden Valley scored twice in the opening four minutes to defeat their hosts Monaro Panthers 2-1. Paul Gagetti gave Woden a third minute lead and they doubled that barely sixty seconds later when

ACT Results

Canberra FC 19 (Victor Yanes 6', 12', 27', 50', 57', 77', Michael Spaleta 10', 52', 73' (pen), 78', 83', 88', Josip Jadric 20', 47', 87', John Glass 21', Adam Spaleta 26', 44', Anthony Bekavac 62') 0

Canberra City 4 (Misko Naumoski 5', 11', 47', own goal 70') Cooma Tigers 0

Canberra Olympic 3 (Domenic Giampaolo 28', 61', Daniel Barac 67') Belconnen United 2 (Dustin Wells 34', Tom Rogic 93')

Woden Valley 2 (Paul Gagetti 3', Alex Oloriege 4') Monaro Panthers 1 (Justin Selkirk 51')

Next Round

Goulburn Strikers v Monaro
Cookburdoon 1:00 PM Sat 7/May

Canberra City v Canberra FC

Hawker Football Centre 3:00 PM Sun 8/May

Woden Valley v TUFC

Woden Park Enclosed 3:00 PM Sun 8/May

Belconnen United v Cooma SC

McKellar Park 4:00 PM Sun 8/May

BYE v Canberra Olympic

ACT Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	1	1	0	0	19	0	+19	3
2 Canberra City	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	3
3 Canberra Olympic	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	3
4 Woden Valley	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
5 Tuggeranong Utd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Belconnen Utd	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
7 Monaro Panthers	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
8 Cooma Tigers	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
9 Goulburn Strikers	1	0	0	1	0	19	-19	0

Alex Oloriege claimed his first competitive goal for the club. Jack Pettit ensured that Woden would enter the closing stages with their advantage intact by brilliantly saving Mar Shields penalty before Justin Selkirk ensured a nervy ending by pulling a goal back for the home side. Woden held on though to take maximum points.



Melbourne Football STARS

THE 2011 EUROPEAN TOUR
SCOTLAND, ENGLAND & SPAIN



Trials Commencing Soon

- Games versus SPL, EPL & La Liga Academy Teams
- Coaching Sessions from Academy Coaches
- Stadium Tours
- Watch SPL, EPL, La Liga & Champions League Games

For further details please contact:
admin@melbournefootballstars.com.au
or visit

www.melbournefootballstars.com.au



WAG OF THE WEEK



Evangelina Anderson Age: 27
Scores with Martin Demichelis(Malaga)



Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST



FOX SPORTS

PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE

Sat May 7 Everton v Manchester City 11.55 pm
Sat May 7 Aston Villa v Wigan 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat May 7 Bolton v Sunderland 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat May 7 Newcastle v Birmingham 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat May 7 West Ham v Blackburn 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sun May 8 Tottenham v Blackpool 2.25 am
Sun May 8 Wolves v West Brom 8.55 pm
Sun May 8 Stoke v Arsenal 11.00 pm
Mon May 9 Manchester United v Chelsea 1.05 am
Tue May 10 Fulham v Liverpool 4.55 am
Wed May 11 Manchester City v Tottenham 4.40 am

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LIVE

Tue May 3 Suwon Bluewings v Sydney FC 8.25 pm
Wed May 4 Melbourne v Gamba Osaka 7.00 pm

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE

Tue May 3 Cardiff v Middlesbrough 2.00 am
Tue May 3 Portsmouth v Norwich 4.30 am
Sat May 7 Final Day Of Season (Teams TBA) 9.30 pm



one HD

Tuesday 03rd May 2011

12:30 am Bundesliga Matchday 32: Borussia Dortmund v Nuremberg
05:00 am Serie A Match Of The Round
12:00 pm Arsenal TV Arsenal v Manchester United
11:00 pm World Football News

Wednesday 04th May 2011

06:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show
06:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
07:30 am World Football News (Rpt)

Thursday 05th May 2011

02:00 am Arsenal TV (Rpt) Arsenal v Manchester United
12:00 pm Liverpool TV Liverpool v Newcastle United

Sunday 08th May 2011

02:00 am LIVE Serie A Matchday 36: Palermo v Bari

Monday 09th May 2011

01:00 am Serie A Matchday 36: Udinese v Lazio
01:00 pm Bundesliga Matchday 33: Bayer Leverkusen v Hamburg

Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC resume Asian Champions League duty this week and anything less than a result could see them both eliminated.

Tune in to FoxSports for all the nail biting action.

Better still, get down to Zagame's Hotel, Caulfield and cheer on the lads with a beer!

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 2nd May

8:30am Serie A Sampdoria v Brescia
Delay
10:15am Portuguese Liga Vitoria
Setubal v Porto Delay
3:30pm Serie A Parma v Palermo Delay
5:15pm Eredivisie FC Twente v Willem II Delay

Tuesday 3rd May

4:40am Serie A Lazio v Juventus **LIVE**
6:45am Serie A Catania v Cagliari Delay
12pm SPL St Mirren v Hamilton Delay
2:55pm J-League Urawa Reds v Yokohama F Marinos **LIVE**
5:15pm Serie A Cheivo v Lecce Delay

Wednesday 4th May

6:45am Blue Square Premier League Tamworth v Forest Green Delay
11:45am Copa Libertadores America v Santos **LIVE**

Thursday 5th May

2:55am SPL Inverness v Celtic **LIVE**
8:25am Copa Libertadores Internaciona...
10:45am Copa Libertadores Cruziero v Once Caldas **LIVE**

Friday 6th May

4:30am Blue Square Premier League Wrexham v Luton **LIVE**
10:25am Copa Libertadores Cerro Porteno v Estudiantes **LIVE**

31tvnow!

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

Wireless FC

Global Football Show
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discuss local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3.

The Four Diegos
Monday to Thursday 11pm SEN

SAXON SPORTS FRANKSTON

NEW SEASON STARTS SOON!

MEN'S I LADIES I MIXED I JUNIORS

5-A-SIDE SOCCER

WATCH A REPLAY OF YOUR FAVOURITE GAME IN THE BAR AT FULL TIME!



TEL 9783 6066 OR SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS WWW.SAXONSPORTSFRANKSTON.COM 4/4 NEW STREET, FRANKSTON (BEHIND BURSON AUTO PARTS)



MATCH DAY FIVE IS DO OR DIE

By David Manuca

Matchday Five of the 2011 Asian Champions League starts this week with the two Australian sides still in the race for a place in the next round.

Wins for both Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC, against Tianjin Teda and Shanghai Shenua respectively, in the last round sees them both still in the running to get out of the group stages.

Melbourne Victory secured a 2-1 win over Tianjin at Etihad Stadium a fortnight ago thanks to goals from Carlos Hernandez and Kevin Muscat in the first-half.

The Victory are still last in Group E but have four points, only three behind group-leaders Tianjin and two behind both Gamba Osaka and Jeju United.

Melbourne will take on Japanese powerhouse Gamba Osaka at Etihad Stadium on Wednesday night with anything but the three points classified as unacceptable.

The last time the two sides faced each other was in Matchday One when Gamba thrashed the Victory 5-1 in Japan which proved to be Ernie Merrick's last game in-charge of Melbourne.

The man who took over from the Scotsman for the remainder of the Champions League, Mehmet Durakovic,

admits that after two great performances against Tianjin has instilled great confidence through the dressing room and a win against Gamba is not out of the question.

Melbourne though with be without key players Grant Brebner, Surat Sukha and Robbie Kruse due to suspension. Surat Sukha was shown two yellow-cards by referee Fagani Alireza against Tianjin which will see him miss the game against Gamba.

Robbie Kruse and Grant Brebner were also shown yellow cards by the referee meaning they have accumulated sufficient yellow cards to be suspended for one match.

"Losing those players does not help, as they have been first choices. But we have a good mix of experience and youth in the squad and I will wait to see how everyone trains in the next few weeks," Durakovic told The Age.

"The cards were very disappointing as I didn't think they were yellow cards.

"They weren't for rough challenges, the kind that Zoric was sent off for in Tianjin, but they went down like flies.

That was their game plan.

"They came here to get a draw and wasted time until they were behind.

"It is a difficult task and we know how good Gamba



Melbourne Victory breathed new life into its ACL campaign after defeating China's Tianjin Teda 2-1 and now face Japan's Gamba Osaka on Wednesday night in another must win game. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

are but the boys have taken a lot out of the win and we are hoping to get revenge for that loss in Osaka."

The blockbuster game will also be Kevin Muscat's last match for the Victory on home-soil, so all Victory fans are encouraged to attend to give this great servant for both club and country a send-off he fully deserves.

Sydney FC produced a brilliant performance against Shanghai in China coming from behind twice to eventually win 3-2 thanks to a wonderful goal in injury time from Mark Bridge.

The win leaves them in third

in Group H on five points, one behind both Suwon and Kashima and three in-front of Shanghai who need a win against the Antlers to keep them in the hunt.

Sydney travel to Korea to take on the group-leaders Suwon Bluewings on Tuesday night. When these two sides faced in Matchday One it ended in a goalless draw.

Bruno Cazarine, who scored two very well-taken goals against Shanghai, said he is looking to head to Korea with his confidence sky-high.

"Obviously when you score goals as a striker the confi-

dence grows. I want to show Suwon what I am really capable of as a striker," he told the Daily Telegraph.

"We have two very important games now [Suwon and Kashima] if we are to get past the first stage," he said. "We were very disappointed we didn't win one of our home games but, after this match in China, everyone knew we still have a chance.

"They are tough games but there is a belief in the squad that we can do it.

"The Koreans are more physical than the Chinese team and probably have more quality."

ACL Details

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 SEPAHAN (IRN)	4	3	0	1	9	3	6	9	
2 AL HILAL (KSA)	4	3	0	1	8	5	3	9	
3 AL GHARAFAH (QAT)	4	1	2	1	3	2	4		
4 AL JAZIRA (UAE)	4	0	1	3	4	1	1	-7	1
04 May AL GHARAFAH (QAT) v AL JAZIRA (UAE)									
04 May SEPAHAN (IRN) v AL HILAL (KSA)									

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 AL SADD (QAT)	4	2	2	0	5	3	2	4	
2 AL NASSR (KSA)	4	1	2	1	5	5	0	5	
3 ESTEGHLAL (IRN)	4	1	2	1	7	7	0	4	
4 PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	4	1	1	2	7	9	-2	4	
04 May AL SADD (QAT) v ESTEGHLAL (IRN)									
04 May AL NASSR (KSA) v PAKHTAKOR (UZB)									

Group C	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 AL ITTIHAD (KSA)	4	3	1	0	7	1	6	10	
2 BUNYODKOR (UZB)	4	1	2	1	4	3	1		
3 AL SHABAB (KSA)	4	0	3	1	2	5	3		
4 PIROOZI ATHLETIC (IRN)	4	0	2	3	7	4	2		
03 May PIROOZI ATHLETIC (IRN) v AL ITTIHAD (KSA)									
03 May BUNYODKOR (UZB) v AL WAHDA (UAE)									

Group D	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 ZOBAHAN (IRN)	4	3	1	0	6	2	4	10	
2 EMIRATES (UAE)	4	2	0	2	6	7	1	6	
3 AL SHABAB (KSA)	4	1	2	1	6	4	2	5	
4 AL RAYAN (QAT)	4	0	1	3	2	7	-5	1	
03 May EMIRATES (UAE) v ZOBAHAN (IRN)									
03 May AL SHABAB (KSA) v AL RAYAN (QAT)									

Group E	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 TIANJIN TEDA (CHN)	4	2	1	1	6	4	1	7	10
2 GAMBÀ OSAKA (JPN)	4	2	0	2	6	7	1	6	
3 JEJU UNITED (KOR)	4	2	0	5	6	1	6		
4 MELB VICTORY (AU)	4	1	1	2	5	9	-4	4	
04 May MELB VICTORY (AU) v GAMBÀ OSAKA (JPN)									
04 May TIANJIN TEDA (CHN) v JEJU UNITED (KOR)									

Group F	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 NAGOYA GRAMPUS (JPN)	4	2	1	1	7	3	4	7	
2 FC SEOUL (KOR)	4	2	1	5	3	2	7		
3 HANGZHOU (CHN)	4	1	1	2	2	6	7		
4 AL AIN (UAE)	4	1	1	2	1	4	4		
04 May GRAMPUS (JPN) v GREENTOWN (CHN)									
04 May FC SEOUL (KOR) v AL AIN (UAE)									

Group H	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 BLUEWINGS (KOR)	4	1	3	0	6	4	2	4	
2 KASHIMA ANTLERS (JPN)	4	1	3	0	5	3	6		
3 SYDNEY FC (AUS)	4	1	2	1	4	6	-2	5	
4 SHANGHAI SHENHUA (CHN) v SHANGHAI (CHN)	4	0	2	2	3	8	-2	2	
03 May ANTLERS (JPN) v SHANGHAI (CHN)									
03 May BLUEWINGS (KOR) v SYDNEY FC (AUS)									

Match Day 5 Details

Melb Victory v Gamba Osaka (JPN)
Wednesday 4 May, KO 7:30pm

Etihad Stadium, Melbourne
Television: Live and exclusive on Fox Sports 3
Radio: 774 ABC

Suwon Samsung Bluewings (Korea) v Sydney FC
Tuesday 3 May, KO 7:30pm
Suwon World Cup Stadium
Television: Live and exclusive on Fox Sports 3

Semi showdowns hit meltdowns

By Matthew Galea

Following suit after the quarter finals, there is seemingly very little to play for after the first leg of the semi finals of this season's Champions League.

During the week both Manchester United and Barcelona took 2-0, albeit in very different fashion, wins from their respective matches and will now look to defend what look like unattainable leads next week. For Schalke and Real Madrid, it is a massive uphill task, and their chances of booking a spot at Wembley for the Champions League final are all but diminished.

In Germany, Manchester United put on one of their greatest European performances according to Sir Alex Ferguson himself. Playing at a terrific tempo and with superb ball movement, Schalke could not get close to the Red Devils as they ran riot at the Veltins-Arena.

At the conclusion of the first half, United fans might have been forgiven for having flashbacks of Bayern Leverkusen in 2003, when United passed up a number of opportunities in Germany before being knocked out at the same stage. Javier Hernandez, Ryan Giggs and Wayne Rooney

were all denied in the first half by the German international goalkeeper, who has confirmed he will be leaving Schalke at the end of the season. Wayne Rooney was the first to suffer, when his deflected shot was somehow tipped around the bar. Hernandez maybe could have done better when Park slipped him through, however Neur waited until the last second before making his move, denying the brilliant Mexican another Champions League goal. Giggs was later denied when his header was somehow saved on the line before half time. Evan Fabio Da Silva got in on the action, and he really ought to have scored when he sent his half volley over the bar.

To their credit, Manchester United kept their cool, and showed no signs of letting up. Giggs missed a clear chance early on, hitting the ball with his weaker foot.

Hernandez finally put the ball in the back of the net shortly after, only to be ruled offside, but it did at least prove Neur could be beaten. Jurado's miscued volley proved Schalke's only real chance.

The deadlock was finally broken by Ryan Giggs after a superb pass from Wayne Rooney, who ran the



Messi proved



MELBOURNE VICTORY

Melbourne Victory line up prior to playing Korea's Jeju United in their Asian Champions League match at Etihad Stadium on Tuesday March 15th 2011. The Koreans won 2-1.

Front row: Tom Pondeják, Marvin Angulo, Kevin Muscat, Adrian Leijer, Grant Brebner.

Back row: Michael Petkovic, Daniel Allsopp, Surat Sukha, Isaka Cernak, Matthew Kemp, Archie Thompson.

Elastoplast

Sport
Supporting your Passion



Visit
iTunes
for your
FREE
Download

Available on the iPhone
App Store



Monday 2nd May 2011

ON THE SPOT

Green Gully Cavaliers FC



goal!
weekly



Ryan Ollerton wins the 2010 Alanic VPL championship with Green Gully. Ryan will play his last game for Green Gully against Bentleigh Greens this weekend before departing for Thailand due to work commitments with the Ford Motor Company. Green Gully would like to thank Ryan for his service to the club and wishes him all the very best in his new adventure abroad.



PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

FULL NAME: Ryan Thomas Ollerton
BIRTHPLACE: Box Hill, Melbourne
BIRTH DATE: 8th September 1981
HEIGHT: 182 cm
WEIGHT: 78kg
MARRIED: Single
CAR: Ford Falcon (FG) XR6 Turbo Sedan
NICKNAME: Ollie or Rhino
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Mooroolbark, Croydon, Mitcham, Bulleen, Bamber Bridge (UK)
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS: Regional/Victoria honours as junior, Best and Fairest (Bulleen, 2004), Victoria State Team selection & China Tour (2005)

CLUB HONOURS: South Pacific Champions (Mitcham, 1994), VPL Champions (Bulleen, 2004), VPL Champions (Green Gully, 2010)
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: My Dad, John Barnes, Robbie Fowler, Sean Lane and Dale White
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Lionel Messi
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Archie Thompson
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Peter Ollerton
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Playing friendlies against Bolton Wanderers & Manchester City (2000), and scoring winning penalty in Grand Final for Bulleen (2004)

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Liverpool vs Aston Villa (Anfield, 1997), Australia vs Uruguay (WC Qualifier, 2005)

MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Right foot volley from edge of the box from an Andy Vargas corner kick vs Sunshine Georgies 2007

EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Getting bollocked by my old man after missing a penalty against Knox City in Under 8's for Mooroolbark

FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Way too many, but Dean Fakyelling "CHARGE!!!!" when we were at 6's and 7's in the penalty box it's up there

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not having a real crack at the A-League when it was starting up

WORST INJURY: Fractured growth plate in right ankle

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Steve Martin
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Bob Jane Stadium and Veneto Club

SUPERSTITIONS: Towel under my feet in change room, closing eyes as referee blows to kick off (don't ask!)

TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Tuna Salad or any Pasta dish

WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Reading the game, positioning and communication

WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES:

Have you seen my left foot?

FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP:

Preston North End, Liverpool

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: American sports junkie (NFL, NBA, NHL, and NCAA Football)

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Troy Polamalu (Pittsburgh Steelers) & Joe Johnson (Atlanta Hawks)

FAVOURITE FOODS: Anything Thai (hot and spicy)

FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Robert De Niro

HOBBIES: Watching sport, collecting music and drinking pints

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT:

Koh Phangan and Phi Phi (Thailand)

FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Don't currently have one, bring back Honkytonks!

IDEAL DATE: Any date with Rihanna would do me just fine

FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: ESPN Sportscenter, Sopranos, The Office

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Hip Hop/Rap, older House/Techno and bands from the UK

FAVOURITE FILM: Close tie between Shawshank Redemption, Trainspotting and Goodfellas

LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Preston North End Home Shirt 2010/11

FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: That I had signed for Feyenoord Rotterdam

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Father and watching Hero (movie on 1986 World Cup)

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Losing

FOOTBALL AMBITION: To make the most of every second I play the great game

WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Mike Tomlin (Head Coach, Pittsburgh Steelers)

YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Perth Glory
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Gully—The run starts now!

AMERICAN SCHOOL

Jennifer Mai

Front row (left to right): Sophie Black, Signourney Dunk, Katherine McFadyen, Caitlin Nye, Freyja Jacobsen, Brionie Thompson, Alex Lawrence



Sport range of sports medicine products. Exclusively used by The Australian Institute of Sport and many other elite sports clubs across Australia and New Zealand.

- **Rigid Strapping Tapes**
- **Elastic Adhesive Bandages**
- **Mouthguards**
- **Hot/Cold Packs**

For all your Sports Medicine needs.
Available from pharmacy, sports medicine wholesalers and supermarkets.

www.elastoplastsport.com

Elastoplast

 Sport Sponsoring Your Life

Supporting your Passion



goal Weekly

LONDON CALLING




With Leroy Robinson in the UK

MUCH has been written and said about Arsenal's failure to win a trophy this season. The reasons have varied from Arsene Wenger being the managerial version of Ebenezer Scrooge, (although even Ebenezer eventually put his hands in his pocket!) to Arsenal's foreign legion lacking the stomach for the fight.

Part of this might be true. It may also be true that Arsenal do not have natural leaders in the dressing room, and seem to be plagued by a lack of belief when the going gets tough. If this is true it is all down to one man: Monsieur Wenger. He is the man who has ultimate control over all aspects of the team, so their failure is his failure.

The real question is what can Arsene do to avoid next year being exactly the same as this year? The problem with Wenger is that if he sticks to what he has done over the past few years, he'll recruit more cut-price bargains (probably French-speaking ones) in the hope that they will help win the league. It hasn't worked.

Where Did It All Start To Go Wrong?

I don't know if it is fair to say Wenger rested on his laurels after the 2003-04 "invincibles" season but history has told me that the best time to strengthen is when you are winning: players want to join your club and the winning mentality can be transferred to those players.

Pires (30), Campbell (29), Bergkamp (35), Wiltord (30), Viera (27), Gilberto Silva (27) were all going to need replacing and in hindsight guys like Reyes, Senderos, Cygan, Aladiere and Kanu were not consistent enough.

The 2003-04 team was a coming together of youth and experience that Arsenal probably won't see again for a long time. The average age of Wenger's current team is about 23 and though it boasts seasoned internationals it doesn't have world-class players in the key defensive positions. Gilberto Silva and Viera dominated the centre midfield but the updated version of Alex Song and Abu Diaby are good players but there seems to be something missing in the team overall.

You see the real problem for Wenger hasn't been that the players are not good enough: it's that he's bought players that are not used to winning, and when you put them in a failing team you'll get more failure.

Granted, Squillaci and Koscielny look like another Remi Garde and Pascal Cygan, but in general the squad does have the quality – which must make it more frustrating for Wenger to see them choking. However, looking at the current Arsenal

squad it is easy to see why they falter when the going gets tough, winning isn't in their blood. When you buy players who do not have a history of winning trophies and introduce them into a system where there is annual failure, you get Arsenal. Of course, Arsenal's lack of success hasn't all been down to Wenger. Chelsea have become a major force, and look for Manchester City to do the same if they eventually develop a coherent strategy for buying players. But Wenger could help himself out by looking at not just if a player is good enough but whether they are winners.

Winning Is Important

You may think winning is unimportant but Jens Lehmann – the 'keeper in Arsenal's last championship winning team – was a UEFA Cup winner with Schalke 04 in 1997 and voted UEFA goalkeeper of the year in 1996-97 and 2005-06. Can you really see Manuel Almunia or Lukasz Fabianski repeating this feat? As for Wojciech Szczesny, he may have 130,000 followers on Twitter but he comes from the same Legia Warsaw stable as Fabianski. However, the 21 year-old has been part of Arsenal's set-up since 2006 so he could be as good as Wenger says.

Laurent Koscielny is a typical Wenger signing. Plucked from FC Lorient on the cheap the 26 year-old has won nothing in the game. He could play alongside Johan Djourou – a player who has come on in leaps and bounds since he joined Arsenal in 2002 but again has won nothing in the game, or the excellent Thomas Vermaelen, another player who, despite playing for Ajax didn't win the title with them. The bizarre thing is they are on course to win it this year without him.

Samir Nasri, apparently a target for Manchester United, is a class act but when he joined Arsenal the closest he'd gotten to a league title with Marseille was second in 2006-2007. Of course, since he's left they won the title in 2009-2010 and currently lead the league. Cesc Fabregas has of course won an FA Cup but this is scant reward for eight years of loyal service. He can't really coach the younger players on what it's like to win things because his memory probably doesn't stretch that far.

Robin van Persie is another successful Tweeter, with over 300,000 followers. However, RvP has no idea what it takes to win the league and, though his seven years at Arsenal

have brought a great goal return, he has no title to show for it. There are however a few exceptions, and this should give Arsenal fans hope. Andrei Arshavin won a title with Zenit St. Petersburg in 2007 and more recently Marouane Chamakh won the title with Bordeaux in 2008-09.

If I Were Arsene...



C'est la vie? Up until a few weeks ago Arsenal were still in the running for four major trophies before its season imploded in dramatic and frustrating fashion.

But there's a problem. These are all decent players but they are not winners. Some might think this unimportant because in the past teams like Manchester United have signed Wayne Rooney, Chris Smalling, Valencia and Javier Hernandez.

The big difference is when Manchester United sign players like Smalling and Hernandez they bring them into a winning system and into a culture of success, with players like Giggs, Scholes, Ferdinand and van Der Sar to show them what is expected and to lead by example. The most senior players at Arsenal are van Persie, Clichy and Fabregas – hardly on the same level as the aforementioned United players. If anything, Wenger should have kept a few of the invincibles around to instill this winning attitude in the club. However, we grow where we're planted so how do they get success? The good news is the cycle can end, as it did many years ago, when Manchester United signed Eric Cantona.

All Wenger needs is to be brave and sign someone who is just as likely to steer the boat into the rocks as guide it into calm waters.

Where Does He Go From Here?

First of all let's curtail this talk about Arsenal not having leaders. Robin van Persie and Samir Nasri were captains of Feyenoord and Olympique Marseille respectively early in their careers. These guys lead by exam-

ple. Just because they don't scream and shout it doesn't mean they don't care or are not leaders.

During these lean years Wenger has relied on signing guys like Ramsey, Walcott, Fabregas, Clichy, Song, Diaby, and Sagna, bringing them in as youngsters and rearing them into the Arsenal system. He had supplemented that policy by signing more experienced players like Rosicky, Nasri, Chamakh, Squillaci, Vermaelen, Koscielny, Adebayor and Arshavin. But all this has done is built them into a powerful machine that grinds to a halt near the finish line. So where does he go from here?

Well, for a start he needs to go back in time, to a time when Arsenal were actually successful. The invincibles squad of 2003-2004 had some exceptional players. Aside from Henry the most important players were Pires, Viera and Bergkamp, along with like Ashley Cole and Sol Campbell. Its interesting to note that the team played a 4-4-2 system with Thierry Henry as the striker and Bergkamp dropping deep. This is a system Wenger doesn't employ now because he favours a 4-3-3. It may also be that he doesn't feel he now has the players to play 4-4-2, especially the Bergkamp role, because Arshavin quite frankly is only interested in breaking a sweat when the ball is at his feet.

He doesn't need to return to 4-4-2 but he does need to look at what made Arsenal successful. The spine

of that invincibles team was Campbell/Kolo Toure/Gilberto Silva/ Viera/Bergkamp/Henry. The current spine of the team doesn't come close to this but what he can do is take the attributes of the invincibles and use them as a blueprint for his current squad.

What I'd do is simple. No, I wouldn't bring Cantona out of retirement, I'd buy two players: a combative midfield player who was dirtier than a drunken whore, and a central defender who wasn't far behind. Why? They need some bitter to go with the sweet, something ugly to go with all that pretty passing. In short they need a couple of cynical players (in the Keown and Viera mould) who will take the odd red card for the team. Barca have Puyol and Sergi Busquets so why shouldn't Arsenal have their ugly sisters? Who would I buy? No idea, that's why Wenger is paid the big bucks and I'm not!

Not So Super Spurs

One team in need of an overhaul is Spurs. Amazingly they won't even make it into 5th place, such has been the club's free-fall over the past month. And overhaul isn't too strong a word for what needs doing at the lane.

Harry Redknapp has already complained about his misfiring strike force – a strike force, apart from Pavlychenko, that he bought – and it looks like at least three of the four strikers will go. However, judg-

ing by their predictably pretty play that ended with no cutting edge, Prince Harry needs to make up his mind about the players he has at his disposal. Aaron Lennon has been ineffective in a season where the opposition has focused on stopping Gareth Bale. This should have been Aaron's year but he's been shown up as being unable to go by his man and as lacking inventiveness at the highest level. He should go but who will want him? Try Manchester City, they like to take players away from rival clubs, just so they can't play for them.

Who else should go? William Gallas is a good back-up player but Michael Dawson needs a fast centre back to back up his rugged play. Ledley King and Jonathan Woodgate can leave by the handicapped exit on their wheelchairs. Unfortunately, the problems don't stop there. They need a left-back (one that preferably isn't a Hobbit like Benoit Essou-Ekoto) and a goalkeeper with hands like flypaper who can save shots fired straight at him.

Spurs have had every opportunity to break back into the top four this season but now it looks like, with games at Anfield and the City of Manchester Stadium, like they will drop out of European contention altogether. Suddenly, a season of promise is turning in a UCL curse, with Spurs and Redknapp just not ready to take the leap to UCL regulars just yet.

END OF SUMMER SALE NOW ON ACROSS ALL STORES

CHADSTONE • ESSENDON • FRANKSTON • MARIYRNONG • MOORABBIN • NUNAWADING • OAKLEIGH • RICHMOND • THOMASTOWN • TAYLORS LAKES

ADRIATIC
FURNITURE
EXCLUSIVE, YES. EXPENSIVE? NO.

ADRIATIC.COM.AU

Controversy as Chelsea beat Spurs

Euro Wrap


Alex Luttrell
EPL

Controversial goals from Frank Lampard and Salomon Kalou, who struck in the last minute, kept alive Chelsea's hopes of catching leaders Manchester United.

Sandro gave Tottenham the lead when he fired an unstoppable half-volley past Petr Cech from 25 yards on 19 minutes.

When Heurelho Gomes spilled Lampard's 45th-minute shot he scrambled back and appeared to stop it from crossing the line, but the goal was given.

And Kalou looked offside as he bundled home Didier Drogba's shot late on.

Carlo Ancelotti's men will not care one bit about the manner of their goals as the win means they cut United's Premier League lead to three points, with the leaders playing at Arsenal on Sunday.

Chelsea and United then come face to face at Old Trafford next weekend in a game that will go a long way to deciding the outcome of the title.

For Tottenham the result is a devastating blow which all but ends their hopes of catching fourth-placed Manchester City and securing a second successive appearance in the Champions League.

Meanwhile, Tim Cahill made a return to EPL action for Everton on the weekend after a spell on the sidelines through injury.

Leighton Baines's penalty earned Everton a draw and kept his former side Wigan in the relegation dog-fight after a lively game at the DW Stadium.

Baines netted from the spot after Hugo Rodallega's clear handball after Wigan had looked on course to win thanks to Charles N'Zogbia's first-half goal.

A late strike from Youssouf Mulumbu gave 10-man West Brom their first league victory against Aston Villa for more than a quarter



Controversial goals from Frank Lampard and Salomon Kalou - in the last minute - secure a 2-1 win for Chelsea against Spurs and keep up their hopes of catching Premier League leaders Manchester United.

of a century.

The home side fell behind in the fourth minute when Abdoulaye Meite sliced a Stewart Downing cross into his own net.

West Brom hit back on the hour when Peter Odemwingie volleyed home a close-range equaliser.

Paul Scharner was dismissed moments later, but with six minutes left Mulumbu flicked home the winner.

It was another feather in the cap for West Brom manager Roy Hodgson, whose side not only overhauled Villa, all but extinguishing any lingering relegation fears, but also claimed their first league win against their local rivals since a 1-0 victory at the Hawthorns in April 1985.

Blackburn boosted their chances of avoiding relegation as Martin Olsson's goal gave them a deserved victory over Bolton at Ewood Park.

The Swedish full-back was a constant threat down the left and scored in the 20th minute with a low 20-yard drive.

The points were the first earned by Steve Kean's men in six home matches, leaving them three points and three places above third-from-bottom Wigan.

In overnight matches Manchester United was set to take on Arsenal in a contest that could yet prove pivotal in the title race, whilst earlier in the day Liverpool were playing host to Newcastle United.

West Ham travelled to Manchester City with relegation woes hanging heavily over their heads.

Meanwhile, Queens Park Rang-

ers defeated Watford to clinch the Championship title and end a 15-year absence from the Premier League.

Adel Taarabt, the Championship's player of the year, struck with 14 minutes left, tucking home Tommy Smith's cross with a first-time finish.

And Smith, a former Watford player, put the seal on victory with a low strike in injury-time, sparking scenes of celebration in the away dug-out.

The final whistle saw many of the Rangers players run towards their jubilant Rangers fans, who can now contemplate life back in English's football's highest division.

QPR's spell outside the top flight has included administration, a spell in League One, several owners and numerous managers, but they have led this season's Championship since November and have undoubtedly been the best team in the division.

Bundesliga

Borussia Dortmund secured the German Bundesliga title with two games to spare on Saturday when they beat Nuremberg 2-0.

Closest rivals Bayer Leverkusen lost by the same score at struggling Cologne.

The two results left Dortmund with an unassailable eight points ahead of Leverkusen with two matches each to play.

Goals by Lucas Barrios and Robert Lewandowski gave them their seventh title and their first since 2002.

The second half was played in a festive atmosphere in front of more

than 70,000 fans, especially after Leverkusen fell behind in their game.

Borussia have won 22 of their 32 games and lost only four, despite key players Nuri Sahin and Shinji Kagawa suffering long-term injuries.

SPL

Rangers swept Motherwell aside for the fifth time this season to move four points clear at the top of the table.

Kyle Lafferty fired the opener after 18 minutes despite Steven Hammell's attempt to clear on the goal line.

Steven Davis extended the lead six minutes after the break with a low drive from just inside the box.

Nikica Jelavic headed home from close range 12 minutes later and Steven Naismith powered in two more, on 76 minutes and in stoppage time.

It was the fourth time this season that Motherwell had lost four or more goals to Rangers and it is now 30 meetings between the sides since the Steelmen's last win, in December 2002.

In the title race, the pressure now passes to Rangers' city rivals, Celtic, who will host Dundee United on Sunday hoping not to lose the theoretical advantage they have thanks to a game in hand.

Serie A

Inter Milan came from a goal down to beat Cesena 2-1 on Saturday, keeping the Serie A title race alive until the next round of fixtures.

Inter trailed through Igor Budan's 55th minute goal at the Stadio Dino Manuzzi and looked to be heading for defeat until substitute Giampaolo Pazzini struck to level the scores in the 91st minute.

The striker netted again five minutes into injury time to secure an unlikely comeback victory for the defending champions.

Inter, second in the table, are five points behind league leaders Milan, who play Bologna at home on Sunday.

With three rounds of the season still to come, even if Milan beat Bologna they must wait until next weekend at the earliest to secure their first Scudetto since 2004.

Results

Barclays Premier League

1 Man Utd	34	39	73
2 Chelsea	35	38	70
3 Arsenal	34	31	64
4 Man City	33	21	59
5 Tottenham	34	7	55
6 Liverpool	34	12	52
7 Everton	35	5	48
8 Bolton	35	0	46
9 Fulham	35	7	45
10 Stoke	35	0	43
11 West Brom	35	-14	43
12 Newcastle	34	1	41
13 Aston Villa	35	-13	41
14 Sunderland	35	-13	41
15 Blackburn	35	-14	38
16 Birmingham	34	-17	38
17 Blackpool	35	-22	35
18 Wigan	35	-23	35
19 Wolves	34	-23	33
20 West Ham	34	-22	32

Npower Championship

Coventry 0-0 Reading
Derby 0-2 Bristol City
Doncaster 1-1 Leicester
Hull 1-1 Crystal Palace
Ipswich 2-1 Preston
Leeds 1-0 Burnley
Millwall 0-2 Swanssea
Not'm Forest 5-1 Scunthorpe (Scunthorpe are relegated)
Sheffield Utd 2-2 Barnsley (Sheffield United are relegated)
Watford 0-2 QPR (QPR are Champions)

Npower League One

Brentford 0-3 Southampton
Brighton 2-3 Huddersfield
Bristol Rovers 1-1 Sheff Wed
Dag & Red 3-0 Carlisle
Exeter 1-0 Plymouth
Hartlepool 2-2 Bournemouth
Leyton Orient 0-3 Tranmere
MK Dons 2-1 Notts County
Rochdale 2-2 Peterborough
Swindon 0-2 Oldham
Walsall 2-0 Charlton
Yeovil 4-2 Colchester

Npower League Two

Accrington Stanley 3-1 Barnet
Aldershot 2-2 Rotherham
Bury 1-3 Wycombe
Cheltenham 0-1 Shrewsbury
Crewe 2-0 Stockport (Stockport are relegated)
Gillingham 2-4 Macclesfield
Hereford 1-1 Bradford
Northampton 2-0 Stevenage
Oxford Utd 2-1 Lincoln City
Port Vale 7-2 Morecambe
Southend 1-1 Burton Albion

Clydesdale Bank Premier League

Aberdeen 1-0 Inverness CT
Hibernian 1-2 St Johnstone
Kilmarnock 2-2 Hearts
Motherwell 0-5 Rangers

Blue Square Bet Premier

AFC Wimbledon 2-1 Grimsby
Altrincham 3-4 Eastbourne Boro
Barrow 2-0 Hayes & Yeading
Bath City 2-0 Mansfield
Cambridge Utd 0-1 Fleetwood Town
Crawley Town 1-1 York
Darlington 2-0 Rushden & D'monds
Gateshead 1-7 Newport County
Kettering 3-1 Southport
Kidderminster 2-2 Histon
Luton 1-1 Wrexham
Tamworth 2-1 Forest Green

Scottish First Division

Cowdenbeath 1-0 Stirling
Dundee 3-2 Partick Thistle
Falkirk 0-1 Ross County
Morton 0-2 Dunfermline
Raith Rovers 0-1 Queen of South

Scottish Second Division

Ayr 3-1 Airdrie Utd
East Fife 3-1 Alloa
Forfar 2-1 Peterhead
Livingston 1-1 Dumbarton
Stenhousemuir 1-3 Brechin

Scottish Third Division

Albion 1-0 Stranraer
Annan Athletic 3-0 Arbroath
Clyde 0-2 Queen's Park
Elgin 3-2 Berwick
Montrose 3-0 East Stirlingshire

reigning champions defeating Jeju United 2-1 after trailing at half-time, Incheon United were

smashed at home 6-2 by second placed Jeonbuk and Busan

I'Park defeated the Chunnam Dragons 3-0 at home with Ian Fyfe warming the bench for Busan. Match day 8 concludes Sunday with Gwangju hosting Daejeon Citizen.

Chinese Super League

Round 5 of the Chinese Super League got under on Friday with Tianjin Teda being upset at home by the Lawrie McKinna coached Chengdu Blades 1-0.

McKinna's side featured Australians Adam Kwasnik and Jonas

EPL

P	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	34	39
2 Chelsea	35	38
3 Arsenal	34	31
4 Man City	33	21
5 Tottenham	34	7
6 Liverpool	34	12
7 Everton	35	5

Bergers return to winner's list

By Niki Cook

Despite having not played at the time of writing, Sandringham maintained its position at the top of the WPL ladder, as Round 5 of the Women's Premier League again produced some surprising results. Ashburton ended Bundoora's unbeaten start to the season, while Box Hill United again shared the points with one of the league's bottom sides, Altona. South Melbourne Women's and Casey had big wins, with Heidelberg also returning to the winner's list.

Casey Comets again staked its claim as one of the contenders this season with a strong 5-1 victory over the Emerging Athlete Program on Wednesday. Two goals in the opening twenty minutes by Lana Brown and Nicola Prins gave the Comets an early advantage, but Kariah White pulled one back for the EAP on the half hour to give the young side hope. However, in the second half, it was all Casey, as the visitor added three unanswered goals through Taryn Brown, Prins again, and Melissa Atherton. The result sees Casey climb to second on the ladder, with ten points prior to its Monday night game against Sandringham. After a bright start, the EAP has now lost two of its last three matches, and slips to fifth with nine points.

South Melbourne Women's recorded its second win of the season in emphatic fashion, demolishing Doncaster Rovers with a comprehensive first half display at Anderson Park. South scored six unanswered goals in the first half to effectively decide the tie before the interval. Jolene Miller opened the scoring in the tenth minute, before Laura Spiranovic grabbed two in two minutes shortly after. Tiffany Eliadis scored on the half hour, with Doncaster adding to their own demise with an own goal four minutes later, before Spiranovic wrapped up her hat-trick shortly before the break. South took its foot off the gas in the second half, adding only one further goal to its tally, through Genia Avram ten minutes from time. After a slow start to the season, South has now won its last two matches, and it climbs to sixth on the ladder with eight points. The defeat, Doncaster's fourth of the season, means that it drops to the foot of the ladder due to goal difference.

Altona City, bottom of the ladder and with four straight defeats to its name going into the game, picked up its first point of the season as it secured a 1-1 draw with Box Hill United, the reigning premier, at Wembley Park on Friday night. Louisa Bisby gave the home side the lead on the half hour, a lead



Heidelberg's Melanie Camilleri fights to retain possession against the VCL Country's Alex Cheal (left) and Bianca Trimboli. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

that it took into the half time break. Altona hit back midway through the second half, with Aneta Komijat levelling the scores and earning City a share of the points. Having endured a tough start to the season, the result could help spark Altona's season, and it has at least lifted it off the bottom of the ladder, as it climbs above Doncaster on goal difference. Having dominated the competition in recent times, Box Hill United has had an uncharacteristic start to the season, with just two wins from its six games to date. It has also been held to draws by the two bottom sides on the ladder and has already conceded almost as many goals as it did for the entirety of last season. It sits seventh on the ladder, with eight points.

Ashburton gave its season a welcome boost, and ended the league's only remaining unbeaten start to the campaign in the process, with a 1-0 victory over Bundoora United at Hillsview Recreation Reserve on Saturday. The two sides couldn't be separated for much of the match, with one Ashburton goal straight after half time the only difference between them. Bundoora, a newcomer to the WPL this season, had enjoyed a stellar start to the season, with three wins and a draw from its opening four matches, but it was unable to find a reply to the Ashburton goal, and so suffered its first defeat of the year. The result means that United drops to third on the ladder, level on points with Casey and Heidelberg. Ashburton is eighth, with seven points.

Heidelberg United bounced



Alex Cheal (VCL Country) gets up high to try to block Talia Silvestros' kick. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

back from its Round 4 defeat to record its third victory of the season, defeating VCL Country 2-0 at Olympic Village on Sunday. A goal in each half was enough to secure the points for the home side, and to lift it back to fourth on the

ladder. After a strong victory in its last match, Country was brought back to earth abruptly by this result, which was its fourth defeat of the season. It lies ninth on the ladder, with six points.

The final match of the round

took place on Monday night at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, and pitted the top two teams, Sandringham and Casey Comets, against each other.

Round 6 begins on Wednesday night, when two sides that

WPL RESULTS

Emerging Athlete Program 1 - 5
Casey Comets

Doncaster Rovers 0 - 7 South
Melbourne Womens FC

Box Hill United 1 - 1 Altona City

Bundoora Utd 0 - 1 Ashburton

Heidelberg Utd 2 - 0 VCL Country

Sandringham SC v Casey Comets

Reserves:
Doncaster Rovers 1 - 1 South
Melbourne Womens FC

Box Hill United 7 - 0 Altona City

Bundoora Utd 2 - 1 Ashburton

Sandringham SC v Casey Comets

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	G	GD	Pts
1 Sandringham SC	5	4	1	1	6	12	12	12
2 Casey Comets	5	3	1	1	5	6	10	10
3 Bundoora Utd	5	3	1	1	4	6	10	10
4 Heidelberg Utd	5	3	1	1	5	4	10	10
5 Emerging Athlete	5	3	0	2	12	12	0	9
6 South Melb	5	2	2	1	11	4	7	8
7 Box Hill United	6	2	2	2	10	10	0	8
8 Ashburton	6	2	1	3	9	14	-5	7
9 VCL Country	6	2	0	4	8	12	-4	6
10 Altona City	5	0	1	4	5	16	-11	1

WPL Next Round

Doncaster Rovers v Emerging Athlete
Anderson Park
Wed 4 May KO 8:30PM

Box Hill United v VCL Country
Wembley Park
Fri 6 May KO 8:30PM

South Melbourne v Bundoora Utd
Paisley Park Soccer Complex
Sat 7 May KO 7:30PM

Altona City v Doncaster Rovers
HC Kim Reserve
Sun 8 May KO 1:00PM

Ashburton v Casey Comets
Ashburton Park
Sun 8 May KO 3:00PM

Sandringham SC v Heidelberg Utd
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Mon 9 May KO 8:30PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	G	GD	Pts
1 Box Hill United	5	5	0	0	5	25	15	15
2 Bundoora Utd	5	3	1	1	8	5	3	10
3 South Melbourne	5	2	2	1	13	5	3	8
4 Casey Comets	3	2	0	1	13	5	8	6
5 Sandringham SC	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	6
6 Altona City	4	1	1	2	12	12	0	4
7 Ashburton	4	1	0	3	7	10	-3	3
8 Heidelberg Utd	4	0	1	3	13	12	-1	3
9 Doncaster Rovers	5	0	1	4	22	18	-1	1
10 Emerging Athlete	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 VCL Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

suffered heavy losses in their last outings, the EAP and Doncaster Rovers, meet at DISC in the midweek game. On Friday night Box Hill United hosts VCL Country at Wembley Park, while on Saturday evening South Melbourne Women's welcomes Bundoora United to Paisley Park. The bottom two sides clash at HC Kim Reserve on Sunday, when Altona City takes on Doncaster Rovers, while at Ashburton Park, Ashburton and Casey Comets meet. The final match of the round is again on Monday night at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, when Sandringham faces Heidelberg United.

TOMORROW'S NEWS, TODAY.



Danny Invincible (Kilmarnock)



James Holland (AZ Alkmaar)



Sasa Ognenovski (Seongnam)



Adrian Zahra (Melbourne Heart)



Cameron Watson (Adelaide United)



Rama Tavancioglu (North Qld Fury)



Nick Kalmar (Melbourne Heart)



Mitch Langerak (Borussia Dortmund)

**GET GOAL! WEEKLY EVERY MONDAY
AND GET A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE.**

AVAILABLE FROM ALL GOOD NEWSAGENTS SINCE 2005.

Due to unforeseen electronic technical difficulties running up to our deadline we regret we are unable to bring you the State and Provisional confirmed results and ladders page. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Please check the FFV website for your favourite team's score details.

**State & Prov
Round 5 Fixtures**

All matches to be played on Saturday 7th May with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

STATE NW 2

Geelong v Altona East Phoenix
Stead Park Reserve Fri 6 May KO 8:30PM
Altona City v Moreland City
HC Kim Reserve
Ballarat Red Devils v Brunswick City
Trekardo Park
Banyule City v Whittlesea Ranges FC
Yallambie Park Reserve
Werribee City v Westgate
Galvin Park Reserve
Williamstown v FC Clifton Hill
JT Gray Reserve

STATE SE 2

Doncaster Rovers v Eastern Lions
Anderson Park Fri 6 May KO 8:30PM
Casey Comets v Box Hill United
Comets Stadium
Dandenong City v Malvern City
Frank Holohan Soccer Field
Knox City v Diamond Valley Utd
Egan Lee Reserve
Morwell Pegasus v Heatherton Utd
Ronald Reserve
South Springvale v Noble Park Utd
Warner Reserve

STATE NW 3

Cairnlea v Melbourne University
Cairnlea Park
Avondale Heights v La Trobe University
Doyle Street Reserve
Geelong Rangers v Maribyrnong Greens
Myers Reserve
Hume Utd v Keilor Park
Laura Douglas Reserve
Sydenham Park v Yarraville Glory
Keilor Lodge Reserve
Whittlesea Utd v Sunbury Utd
Thomas Street Recreational Reserve

STATE SE 3

Berwick City v Croydon City Arrows
Jack Thomas Reserve Fri 6 May KO 8:30PM
Doveton v Fitzroy City
Waratah Reserve
Waverley Wanderers v Peninsula Strikers
Carlton Avenue Reserve
Frankston Pines v Mornington
Monterey Reserve Sat 7 May KO 7:00PM
North Caulfield v Old Scotch
Caulfield Park Sun 8 May KO 3:00PM
Kingston City v Nunawading City FC
The Grange Reserve Mon 9 May KO 8:30PM

PROV NW 1

Corio v North Sunshine Eagles
Hume Reserve, Geelong
FC Strathmore v Westvale
Strathmerton Reserve
Laverton Park v Surf Coast
Laverton Park Reserve
Northern Falcons v Western Eagles
Hayes Park
South Yarra v Essendon Utd
Fawkner Park (Northern Field)
Sporting Whittlesea FC v North City Lions
RGC Cook Reserve

PROV SE 1

Warragul Utd v Hampton Park Untd Sparrows
Baxter Park (Warragul)
Skye Utd v Mooroolbark
Skye Recreational Reserve
Monash University v Old Melburnians
Monash University
Old Camberwell Grammar v Lyndale Utd
Deepdene Park
Sandringham SC v Beaumaris
Spring St Oval
Springvale City v Brandon Park
Ross Reserve

PROV NW 2

Elwood City v Bell Park
Elwood Park
Epping City v Northern Roosters
Duffy Street Reserve
Melbourne City v West Preston
Edwards Reserve
Moreland Utd v Melbourne Tornado
Moomba Park Reserve
Plenty Valley Lions v Hoppers Crossing
Sycamore Reserve
Upfield v Lalor Utd
Gibb Reserve

PROV SE 2

Monbulk v Bayside Argonauts
Monbulk Recreation Res Fri 6 May KO 8:30PM
Ashburton United v Seaford Utd
Ashburton Park
Casey Kings v Uni. of Melbourne
Betula Park
Caulfield United Cobras SC v Keysborough
Victory Park
Endeavour Utd v Boronia Eagles
Reeves Reserve
Old Carey v Riversdale
Carey Sports Complex

PROV NW 3

Heidelberg Stars v Essendon Royals
Cartledge Reserve
Meadow Park Eagles v Brimbank Stallions
Gladstone Park Reserve
Mill Park v Darebin Utd
Findon Reserve
Watsonia Heights v Moreland Wolves
Gibson Reserve
Youth Utd v Brunswick Zebras
Seth Raisbeck Reserve
Melton Phoenix FC v Balmoral FC
MacPhersons Park Sat 7 May KO 7:00PM

PROV SE 3

Whitehorse Utd v East Bentleigh
Terra Park
Noble Park v Baxter
Norman Lutze Reserve
Old Trinity Grammarians v Brighton
Trinity Sports Ground
Collingwood City v Rowville Eagles
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
White Star Dandenong v Eltham Redbacks FC
Greaves Reserve
Old Brighton Grammarians v Middle Park FC
Dendy Park

Dickie grabs four as Moreland crush Devils

By Paul Mavroudis

THE State and Provisional leagues resumed play on the weekend, after only three rounds had been played before the Easter break. Still, not all clubs were absent from playing duties, as several state and provisional league sides were still involved in the Mirabella Cup.

In State League 2 North/West, the most anticipated match was between Moreland City and Ballarat Red Devils. Both sides had knocked off State League 1 opposition in the cup the previous week, and Moreland City in particular have been in scintillating form. That form continued in round four, as they annihilated the Red Devils 6-1, with Paul Dickie bagging four goals. Moreland City hold top spot with a perfect record, with Whittlesea Ranges two points adrift in the playoff spot, after they beat Geelong 3-0. And at the crowded bottom end of the table, Banyule lost their fourth match of the campaign after losing 1-0 to Brunswick City.

State League 2 South/East saw Eastern Lions maintain top spot with a 3-1 victory over South Springvale. Amongst the immediate chasing group, only Dandenong City managed to get all three points, with a 2-1 win over Morwell Pegasus to go with their midweek cup upset over Langwarrin. Malvern City and Casey Comets both lost, to Noble Park United and Diamond Valley United respectively, while Doncaster Rovers won their first game of the season by overcoming Box Hill United 1-0 at Wembley Park.

In State League 3 North/West, Yarraville Glory somewhat put their midweek 14-0 cup humiliation against South Melbourne behind them by playing out a scoreless draw with Cairnlea. But that result allowed Keilor Park to extend their lead at the top of the table, after they defeated the still pointless Maribyrnong Greens. Keilor Park has been in terrific form in both the



State League North West Division Two action between FC Clifton Hill and Altona City.

Photo: PETER PSARROS

league and cup, having knocked out three higher ranked sides thus far, to earn them a meeting with the stuttering Melbourne Knights on Tuesday.

In State League 3 South/East, Old Scotch made it four wins from four starts after beating Berwick City 3-1, to keep ahead of the chasing pack lead by Kingston City, who are two points further back, after the Reds crushed Peninsula Strikers 4-1. Meanwhile at the other end of the table, Croydon City heaped more misery on the

struggling Frankston Pines, dishing out a 4-0 hiding.

In Provisional League 1 North/West, Corio suffered its first defeat of the season to the previously winless Sporting Whittlesea. Then second placed Western Eagles failed to take advantage of Corio's stumble, after going down at home 3-2 to South Yarra, after the scores were locked 2-2 at halftime. North Sunshine, just days after claiming the biggest scalp of the Mirabella Cup thus far after beating Altona Magic midweek,

managed to close the gap to one point, after beating Surf Coast 2-1.

In Provisional League 1 South/East, Beaumaris bounced back from a pre-Easter mauling at the hands of Springvale City, by notching up a big 6-2 win over Monash University, with Michael Runnals scoring a hat-trick. Ladder leaders Springvale City slipped up, drawing 1-1 with Old Melburnians, but at Esther Park, Warragul United were unable to claim top spot for themselves, drawing 1-1 with Mooroolbark, with the Barkers equalising in injury time.

In Provisional League 2 North/West, the feature match was the battle between two of the three sides with perfect records, West Preston and Moreland United, and the home side took the spoils 2-1, after scoring twice within the first seven minutes. Hoppers Crossing held first place, coming from 2-0 down at halftime to beat Elwood City 3-2.. while Upfield eventually triumphed 5-2 over Melbourne Tornado, after Tornado took the lead in the opening ten seconds of the game.

In Provisional League 2 South/East, the top of the table clash lived up to expectations, with Caulfield Cobras and Bay-side Argonauts playing out a 3-3 draw. Monbulk and Old Carey both took advantage of that draw with away wins against University of Melbourne (4-3) and Ashburton United (3-1) respectively. Meanwhile Seaford picked up its first points of the

season, with a 1-0 win over Endeavour United.

In Provisional League 3 North/West, the ladder leading Brunswick Zebras were knocked off their perch in spectacular fashion, after Brimbank Stallions dealt them a 4-1 hiding. Meadow Park couldn't make the most of the opportunity thought, after they played out a 3-3 draw with the struggling Balmoral, while Melton Phoenix and Mill Park remained rooted to the foot of the table, both winless after four matches.

In Provisional League 3 South/East, Collingwood City defeated Noble Park 5-3 to stay top of the table with 12 points, joined by Middle Park who crushed Old Trinity 7-2, while amongst the chasing pack, Old Brighton and Rowville Eagles also won away from home to keep with the leaders.

In the Metro Leagues North/West Tullamarine Jets extended their lead at the top of the table with a 5-4 win over second placed Mitchell Ranges - Muhammed Tankir scored four times for the winners, who incredibly were 4-1 down with 15 minutes to play.

In the Metro South/East. Ashton Athletic made it four wins out of four after defeating Old Haileybury 2-0, and Harrisfield Hurricanes moved into second after knocking off Glen Waverley by the same scoreline. And last but not least, in the **Metro Central**, North Lions beat Moonee Valley Knights 3-1 for their first win of the year.



FC Clifton Hill find the back of the net in their 2-1 win against Altona City.

Photo: PETER PSARROS



FC Clifton Hill's Alex Kiratzoglou about to cross as his Altona City opponent rushes in. Photo: PETER PSARROS



**5-A-SIDE
INDOOR
SOCCER**

LOCATIONS INCLUDE:

CAMBERWELL
COLLINGWOOD
CARLTON NORTH
VERMONT SOUTH
CAULFIELD
GLEN WAVERLEY

FOOTSCRAY
BOX HILL
PRESTON
HAWTHORN
CARLTON
ENDEAVOUR HILLS

**MENS & MIXED
COMPETITIONS**
0433 000 444
info@super5s.org
www.super5s.org

Lions roar again, Sharks give Fawkner the blues

North Geelong Warriors and Preston Lions kicked off the round 4 action on Friday night in a match that saw the Lions romp home. Home wins to Whittlesea Zebras, Altona Magic and Western Suburbs saw these three clubs consolidate their positions, while Port Melbourne was also smiling after their visit to Fawkner. It is worrying times for Pascoe Vale, Sunshine George Cross, North Geelong, and Bulleen Lions, with all four clubs recording just one win from the four matches played. Preston's win has thrown the battle at the bottom wide open and Langwarrin has also been dragged down the ranks after their loss to Altona Magic.

LIONS ROARING AGAIN

NTH GEELONG 1
PRESTON LIONS 4

The long awaited opening home game of the 2011 season disappointed the North Geelong Warriors faithful, with the home team crashing 4-1 to the rampant Preston Lions. The visitors turned on the style after losing their opening 3 games of the season, as they bounced back in no uncertain manner. Two goals in each half secured the Lions first win. The home team felt aggrieved at the decisions that allowed two of Preston's goals, as appeals for offside fell on deaf ears. North Geelong didn't do themselves any favours by paying too much respect to Preston. This was a totally different performance by North Geelong from the week before when the Warriors defeated the Georgies away from home by having a go. They must adopt this attitude in all matches in order to move away from the bottom places. On this performance Preston Lion's fans can look forward to much better times. Preston's goal scorers were: Edin Ahmetovic 2, Andrew Branov and Iгоре Kolevski.

BATTLE OF STRENGTH

ALTONA MAGIC 1
LANGWARRIN 0

After the disappointment of the fourth round Mirabella Cup loss to Provisional League side North Sunshine, Altona Magic returned to the winner's circle with a narrow 1-0 win over the visiting Langwarrin side. It was a game that never reached any great heights, with the emphasis being more on a physical strength rather than skill. The referee was kept very busy throughout the match booking 9 players, and it was fortunate he was lenient, as some of the tackles had red card written all over them. Altona held the upper hand for most of the first half, and should have taken the lead in the first 20 minutes when Pece Siveski was through on goal, with only Michael Sivulja in his way. Instead of shooting Siveski opted to go round the keeper, but was closed down and the chance was gone. Not long after Magic took the lead with a goal scored by Koce Delev in the 27 minute. Defences dominated for the rest of the game, with only a few half chances coming at both ends. Langwarrin put in a big effort over the last 15 minutes trying to grab something from the game, but the home side defence coped well, to ensure all the points remained with the Paisley Park boys.

FAWKNER RUE MISSES

FAWKNER BLUES 0 **PORT MELBOURNE 1**

The match of the round saw the mighty Port Melbourne Sharks maintain their 100% record by recording a narrow 1-0 win over Fawkner Blues at C B Smith Reserve. The only goal of the game came after 20 minutes when captain/coach Eric Vassiliadis' brilliant free kick from 20 metres beat the Fawkner wall and Pasi Schwalger, for a vital goal that was to prove the difference in the end. For the rest of the game the Sharks had to fight for their lives as the Blues took the game to the league leaders. Fawkner blew their best opportunity to draw level when awarded a penalty kick, but Port's goalie Adam Hrehoresin was not to be beaten on the day, and saved his side. Fawkner can take heart from this performance, but they also must learn to make use of the opportunities when they arise. The Sharks camp was happy to get away from Jukes Road with another clean sheet and all 3 points after one of the sternest test to date.

STARS & VALE TURN ON QUALITY FOOTBALL

PASCOE VALE 0
SOUTHERN STARS 2

Southern Stars registered their third successive win with this deserved 2-0 win over Pascoe Vale on Saturday. The match itself was a credit to the first division with both sides displaying great football. The visitors knew they had to be at their best to take anything away from Hosken Reserve, and at their best they were. The Stars was on the front foot from the start and took a deserved lead after 20 minutes when Mark Leech opened the scoring. They held the lead till the break, and increased the margin when Chris Greechan scored after 65 minutes. Pascoe Vale threw caution to the wind in the final 25 minutes and came close to opening their account several times. Stars counter attacking game could have also resulted in a few goals of their own. The introduction of veteran Sach Becvinovski in attack made a difference for Pascoe Vale and it took a great double block tackle that prevented Sasha doing what he does best. After losing the opening game of the season Southern Stars have hit their straps, and on this form will be challenging for one of the two top positions.

SUBURBS WIN DERBY

WESTERN SUBURBS 2
SUN GEORGE CROSS 0

Near neighbours Western Suburbs and Sunshine George Cross clashed at Ralph Reserve with the home team scoring a vital win in controversial circumstances. Suburbs got off to a flying start hitting the upright within the first minute of the game and went close again not long after with Mario Roza being kept busy. The Georgies came more into the game after 15 minutes to dominate the remainder of the half. Matthew Italiano came closest for the Georgies when he snuck between Bojo Jevdjetic and Steve Georgakakis, but his toe poke went narrowly past the upright. Suburbs took the lead 3 minutes before half time when the Georgie defence opened up, allowing the ball to come across the goal area to the unmarked Dimitri Vithoulkas who shot home from a tight angle. The second half was a tight affair with Sunshine pushing

forward in search of an equaliser and Suburbs playing on the break. The Georgies thought they drew level after 71 minutes when Reggie Davani beat Jevdjetic as the ball rolled towards the empty net. Sunshine's Nicholas Scerri followed up the shot under pressure from a Suburb's defender, with the ball ending up in the net. The Georgie's joy was short lived with the referee cancelling the goal, after consulting his assistant. Things turned sour for the visitors after 78 minutes when Ross Wallis received a straight red card after the referee once again consulted his other assistant. Western Suburbs made use of the extra man by wrapping up the match in the 83 minute when Dimitri Vithoulkas scored his second goal from a great free kick that beat Mario Roza at the far post. Lorenz Kindtner side held out till the end with Bojo Jevdjetic denying Reggie Davani a consolation goal right on full time.

LATE GOALS GIVE ZEBRAS WIN

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS 2 **BULLEEN LIONS 0**

The Italian derby never lived up to expectations in what turned out to be a very timid affair. The match was destined for a 0-0 score line, until substitute Ryland Sadler scrambles the ball over the line



Fawkner's Ray Lally (left) and Port's Sam Arico tangle, but neither wins the ball

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Nick Georgakopoulos (Sharks) makes a timely interception to stop Jason Dolevski (Blues). PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Having outmuscled his Fawkner opponent, Port's Tim Paton throws himself after the ball. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

SL1 RESULTS

North Geelong Warriors	1 - 4
Preston Lions	
Altona Magic	1 - 0 Langwarrin
Fawkner Blues	0 - 1
Port Melbourne	
Pascoe Vale	0 - 2 Southern Stars
Whittlesea Zebras	2 - 0 FC Bulleen Lions
Western Suburbs	2 - 0 Sunshine George Cross
North Geelong Warriors	
U21s:	
North Geelong Warriors	5 - 0 Preston Lions
Altona Magic	1 - 2 Langwarrin
Fawkner Blues	1 - 1 Port Melbourne
Pascoe Vale	2 - 4 Southern Stars
Western Suburbs	3 - 2 Sunshine George Cross
Whittlesea Zebras	1 - 3 FC Bulleen Lions

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Port Melbourne	4	4	0	0	27	12		
2 Whittlesea Zebras	4	3	1	7	34	10		
3 Southern Stars	4	3	0	1	8	6	2	9
4 Western Suburbs	4	2	1	1	6	5	1	7
5 Altona Magic	4	2	1	1	5	4	1	7
6 Fawkner Blues	4	2	0	2	6	3	3	6
7 Langwarrin	4	1	1	2	5	8	-3	4
8 Pascoe Vale	4	1	0	3	7	5	2	3
9 Sunshine George Cross	4	1	0	3	5	8	-3	3
10 FC Bulleen Lions	4	1	0	3	6	3	-3	3
11 Preston Lions	4	1	0	3	6	11	-5	3
12 North Geelong Warriors	4	1	0	3	4	10	-6	3

SL1 Next Round

Port Melbourne v Altona Magic
SS Anderson Reserve
Fri 6 May KO 8:30PM

Southern Stars v Whittlesea Zebras
Kingston Heath Socer Complex
Sat 7 May KO 3.00PM

Langwarrin v FC Bulleen Lions
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 7 May KO 3.00PM

Pascoe Vale v North Geelong Warriors
Hosken Reserve
Sat 7 May KO 3.00PM

Preston Lions v Western Suburbs
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 8 May 11 KO 3:00PM

Sun George Cross v Fawkner Blues
Chaplin Reserve
Sun 8 May 11 KO 3:00PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Southern Stars	4	3	1	0	15	9	6	10
2 FC Bulleen Lions	4	3	0	1	17	5	12	9
3 Langwarrin	4	3	0	1	9	5	4	9
4 Western Suburbs	4	3	0	1	12	12	-1	9
5 North Geelong Warriors	4	2	1	1	12	5	7	7
6 Whittlesea Zebras	4	2	1	1	11	8	3	7
7 Fawkner Blues	4	2	1	6	7	1	-7	6
8 Pascoe Vale	4	2	0	2	12	12	0	6
9 Sunshine George Cross	4	0	2	2	8	14	-6	2
10 Port Melbourne	4	0	1	3	9	6	-3	1
11 Altona Magic	4	0	1	3	5	13	-8	1
12 Preston Lions	4	0	0	4	8	18	-10	0

from close range in the 80th minute. Sadler was again on hand in the 88 minute to once again force the ball home and ensure all 3 points for the high flying Whittlesea Zebras. The final few minutes of this match produced the only excitement, of an otherwise dour struggle, with neither team looking likely to score. The home side was happy to secure another home victory, but it must be a worrying time for Bulleen whose performance in this match was well below the expected standard. Their passing was poor and there appears to be a lack of understanding in general play.



V-LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP

Season Preview

THE VICTORIAN HOME OF FUTSAL
FUTSAL OZ, 407 VICTORIA STREET, BRUNSWICK. T: 1300 788 799



Pascoe Vale FC make V-League history!

By Matthew Montgomery

It was the final that was billed as 'the dream final' as top ranked Pascoe Vale FC took on league rivals and second placed Metropolitan FC. A packed crowd swarmed into the Victoria Futsal stadium in anticipation to see whether the current league champions could lift the FOz Cup for a third time in their short existence or if Metropolitan could finally claim their first piece of silverware after finishing runner up in the league on two occasions and also falling short against Pascoe Vale in the cup final two seasons ago.

The first half went to plan for Pascoe Vale as they dominated possession early. The dream start was then capped off as Marcus Barbosa opened the scoring with a thumping drive from outside the 'D' and into the top corner leaving Metro keeper Damir Salcin with no chance. Then before the sky blues knew it they were looking at a 3-0 deficit with Joao Da Silva and Andre Caro adding to Barbosa's opener. Metropolitan were not going to give up that easy. Desperate to claw their way back into the match, it was a well worked Ivan Zelic free-kick which set up Jusuf Avdic for their first goal. Getting that first goal really seemed to settle the nerves of the sky blues as the game really opened up. Metro manager Alija Redzepovic who had been out with a knee injury made a miraculous comeback for the Cup final, this showed the sky blues intent on winning the cup. Although his inclusion in the side may have been a huge risk to his well being, it paid off on the score board as he tapped in at the back post to make the score 3-2 just before half time.

While Metropolitan had finished the first half as the stronger side, Pascoe Vale rose to the challenge and kicked away to a 5-2 lead with goals from Barbosa and Da Silva for their second goals of the match. Da Silva's goal was scored in true Pascoe Vale style with every player on the pitch touching the ball, moving it from defence, then all the way to an un-marked Da Silva at the back post. At this point Pascoe Vale had complete control of the match, and if it wasn't for the heroics of Metro keeper Damir Salcin the game would have been out of reach for the underdogs. Salcin's impressive form in goals gave the Metro boys a new found confidence as Husmir Ikanovic and Ivan Zelic both scored to bring them within one goal of levelling the match. Pascoe Vale were certainly feeling the heat as the crowd could sense the possibility of an upset. The 5-4 score line wasn't to last for long as the quality of Pascoe Vale again got them out of trouble, with Andre Caro and Ernie Simsek both scoring to finish off a spirited Metropolitan comeback. The final score was 7-4 in the end, making them the most successful club in V-League history with two league premierships and three cups. Pascoe Vale's Marcus Barbosa was awarded with the Best-on-Ground award, while Joao Da Silva collected the Top Scorer award for the FOz Cup competition.

2011 Season Preview

As the Cup Competition comes to an end, that means that the new 2011 V-League season is due to kick off next week. So to prepare for the new season we have taken a look at all of the teams to prepare a guide for each side which includes: key players to watch, what they need to survive and a good indication where they will finish up on the ladder at the end of the season. This season will definitely be



Pascoe Vale FC. Now the most successful club in V-League history. They have now amassed 2 League titles and 3 FOz Cups.



PVFC keeper G. Lascaris can't help but let out all of his emotion when the final whistle blows.



PVFC's J. Da Silva (L) claims the FOz Cup top goal scorer award while M. Barbosa (R) claims the man of the match award.



Metro FC keeper D. Salcin tries to dispossess PVFC playmaker J. Da Silva in front of a full-house.

the best season yet and with all of the V-League sides getting stronger, survival will be harder than ever before.

Albert Park FC

After one season in the State League, Albert Park are back in the top flight. After finishing fourth in the Championship they did well to dispose of a talented and determined Mickleham FC 14-13 over two legs. But during the qualifiers they had a very limited squad, even playing with injured players at times. Some would say that they are lucky to be in the league....maybe so.... but to survive they need to build their squad. Albert Park's key players this season will be captain Jason Ioanidis roaming from box to box and his brother Theo Ioanidis who score 5 in the qualifiers and regularly appears on the score sheet.

Ashburton FC

After finishing in fourth position last season Ashburton will be looking to repeat their efforts in 2011. But to achieve this, caretaker manager Paul Vidic will have to put together a squad that will be able to play week-in-week-out as there were a lot of inconsistencies in the squad throughout the season. The key players that will drive the green machine's top four aspirations will be mercurial striker James Blackburn and former New Zealand representative playmaker Mark Burton who also won the league title with Fitzroy two seasons ago.

FC Balwyn

After a strong season in the State League finishing second and easily disposing of Brimbank in the qualifiers, the Balwyn boys seem to look like they will be quite comfortable

going head to head with the big teams of the V-League. But to stay up they will need State League top goal scorer and Best and Fairest player Rob Zadworny to continue his award winning form in the V-League. As well as Zadworny, the players that will be key for Balwyn's survival will be striker Matt Italiano and former Brimbank playmaker Jason Barrientos.

CF Brunswick

Brunswick will be one of the surprise packets of the new season. After a mid-season blow up, Brunswick picked up their act by employing a manager and maintaining a consistent squad. They also lay claim to one of the recruits of last season, striker Munya Nyadzayo who scored 21 goals in ten games. Brunswick will play in the cup next season, but to go for the top four they will need to have a better mid-season. The key players for Brunswick will be Nyadzayo, midfielder Rus Roslan and former Ashburton striker Duke Duva.

FC Essendon

Not many V-League enthusiasts had expected FC Essendon to survive last season, let alone finish in 6th position. They did almost everything right. They beat the teams below them and challenged the top teams on occasions, but one thing they didn't do was inject pace and youth into the team. This will be their key to survival. There is already enough valuable experience in the squad, but they are a bit slow and need a lot more run.

The key players to look out for will be four time leading goal scorer Alex Stevanovic and midfielder Ivan Pajic. This will be the team's downfall if

Fitzroy FC

Fitzroy last season had achieved what many thought no other team was capable of... defeating Pascoe Vale. But after this amazing feat their form began to take massive dip. It didn't help that their keeper, State representative Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh kept getting suspended. The key to Fitzroy's survival this season will be simply to score more goals. Fitzroy are a very defensive side, but were often found out when scored heavily against. The main players for Fitzroy will be: Captain Hamid Hassanikho's run and drive, striker Haider Noor and keeper Dianosh Rasoulzadeh.

Hume FC

After finishing in 5th position in the league last season, Hume will be looking to finally crack into the top four for the first time. Hume are a fearless side capable of defeating any side. They even drew with Pascoe Vale. But they have lost one of their best players in defender Resit Culeuloglu, so they will have to cover him somehow. The best option lies in Moe Tankir, if he can stay fit and on the pitch they will challenge once again. The main players that will influence their top four aspirations will be strikers Mohammed Nabin and Mehmet Parlak along with defenders Moe Tankir and Nejdet Sahin.

FC Melbourne

The current State League champions will be on a massive high come round 1 of the new season. But the Melbourne boys will have to be on their toes from round 1 as they have decided not to strengthen their squad. This will be the team's downfall if

they do not recruit players with V-League experience, although they do have former Fitzroy defender Moussi Eloor, but surely more experience is needed in their squad. The main players to look out for will be the defensive partnership of Chris Gospel and Moussi Eloor. If they can combine well, they may have a chance of staying up.

Metropolitan FC

After finishing runners up in now two V-League seasons and two FOz Cups, surely manager Alija Redzepovic will be considering a change within the squad. Although the sky blues are a squad brimming with talent, they lack solid defensive qualities. With key defender Tomo Grgic getting older it's time for players like Husmir Ikanovic, Jusuf Avdic and Irzad Spajic to stand up and play a more defensive role rather than trying to score at every opportunity. There is no doubt that Metropolitan will be pushing for the title yet again, but to do so they will need Alija to be fit, Avdic to be more disciplined in the back half and keeper Damir Salcin to be between the sticks more often.

North Melbourne FC

As well as Metropolitan, you can expect Milton Sakkos and his quality squad to be aiming for the 2011 title also. But Milton will also be wondering what else he has to do to finally claim some silverware after three seasons in Victoria's premier Futsal competition. Again, like Metropolitan, North Melbourne have a squad with a lot of quality but to take the next step they need a more prolific goal scorer and perhaps more speed in the middle of the pitch. Could a Fernando

2011 Season Round 1

- 6:30 FC Melbourne v Fitzroy FC
- 7:15 Metropolitan FC v CF Brunswick
- 8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v Albert Park FC
- 8:45 FC Prahran v FC Balwyn
- 9:30 FC Essendon v Hume FC
- 10:15 Ashburton FC v North Melbourne

FOz Cup 10-11 Top Goal Scorers

1. J. Da Silva PVFC	8 Goals
2. E. Simsek PVFC	6 Goals
3. M. Barbosa PVFC	6 Goals

De Moraes return be what they need? One thing is certain, both Adam Cooper and Jonathan Barrientos need to keep their defensive partnership tight while adding the odd goal.

Pascoe Vale FC

Well what can you say about possibly the greatest team the V-League has ever seen? They will certainly be the team to beat for the 2011 season. Although they have lost Ernie Simsek and Marcus Barbosa to Prahran they have gone out and replaced them with Brenno Polatti and Mauricio Novak. Two very, very capable players. The key to Pascoe Vale defending their V-League title will be for them not to become too complacent and thinking the title is theirs. Yes they are a quality side, but this is a funny game and anything can happen! The key players this season will be the chemistry between playmakers Joao Da Silva and Andre Caro, also keeper Greg Lascaris needs a stand out season.

FC Prahran

With earning survival on the last match of the night last season most would say that the Prahran boys were lucky to escape the qualifiers. But being an experienced V-League side, Prahran knew they needed to strengthen the squad to keep their top flight status, so they went out and recruited three quality players in Marcus Barbosa, Ernie Simsek and Adam Husseini. Along with regular players Maxi Avram and Cilnt Mogaoi this new look Prahran side look top four material. To achieve this, Prahran need to gel as a team as soon as possible and with the quality and experience of their new recruits this shouldn't be a problem.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



1

By David Manuca

A Josip Magdic equalizer early in the second half earnt the Melbourne Knights a 1-1 draw with Richmond Eagles at Knights Stadium on Friday night.

Michael Ferrante scored his fourth goal of the season to put Richmond ahead in the 14th minute but Magdic's second half equalizer ensured the points were to be shared.

The Knights hadn't won a game since March 20 when they thrashed Bentleigh Greens 4-0 at home and the 1-1 draw sees their match of four games without a win continue.

Richmond's last win also came against Bentleigh on April 3 and are now winless in their last three matches.

Melbourne Knights manager Paul Magdic made no changes to the starting eleven that drew with St. Albans a fortnight ago, with the only change being Rivdan Saglam replacing Joseph Franjic on the bench. Richmond manager Michael Chatzitifonos made one change to the starting line-up replacing Stuart Wilson with Mate Eterovic.

Paul Magdic was looking for his first win since taking over from Ivan Duzel a few weeks ago and was hoping for the best possible start to the game.

The game didn't start very brightly as both sides took a while to get into any sort of rhythm. Antun Kovacic's stray pass fell to Mathieu Welmant gifting him the first real opportunity of the game but his left-footed strike was straight at Richmond stopper Stjepan Gal.

But a minute later, in the 14th minute, Richmond took the

Josip's Magdic Earns Knights A Point

RICHMOND EAGLES



1

Match Details

Melbourne Knights:
M.John, R.Filipovic, B.Surey,
J.De Camargo, J.Magdic,
A.Colosimo, J.Dubois,
D.Dragicevic (S.Romein 76'),
A.Zilic, C.Sweeney (J.Kozic
46'), M.Welmat R.Saglam (T
69').

Goals: J.Magdic 51'.

Yellow Cards: Surey, De
Camargo.
Red Cards: None

Richmond Eagles:
S.Gal, E.Karahan,
R.Antoniadis, M.Bissinger,
D.Tsiaras, T.Purcell,
M.Catalano (A.Viola 79'),
C.O'Hare (E.Batsis 49'),
M.Eterovic (S.Wilson 58'),
A.Kovacic, M.Ferrante.

Goals: M.Ferrante 15'.

Yellow Cards: Kovacic
Red Cards: None

Venue: Somers Street
Crowd: 1200



Josip Magdic equalizes for the Melbourne Knights against Richmond Eagles. Photo: STEVE STAREK

lead. Mate Eterovic produced a great piece of individual skill down the left, dribbling past two defenders before cutting the ball back to Michael Ferrante on the edge of the area who emphatically blasted the ball home to put Richmond ahead.

Jean-Charles Dubois nearly put the Knights level on the half-hour mark when he glided past two defenders before releasing a tame shot that had the keeper scrambling as it hit the post and rebounded out only for a Richmond player to clear it away.

The two sides went into the break with the two pieces of individual brilliance from Eterovic and Dubois and obviously the goal by Ferrante the only exciting parts of the first half.

Magdic made a change at half time taking off Craig Sweeney who didn't look fully fit, re-

placing him with Josip Kozic. Chatzitifonos also decided to make a change four minutes into the second half with Evan Batsis coming on for Chris O'Hare.

But Batsis didn't even have an opportunity to touch the ball before the Knights found themselves level.

Paul Magdic found some space in the area and unleashed a cracking effort which Gal could do nothing about. It was game on.

With the Knights back level they pushed hard instantly for a second with the Richmond defence looking very nervous. On the 70th minute mark Richmond had their best opportunity to go back in-front. Dimitri Tsiaras was played in one on one with the keeper but he appeared to slip when taking his shot resulting in the ball going harmlessly wide of the goal.

A few minutes later Dubois was given the space to run inside the box but he was without any support and decided to take a shot from a tight angle which was saved and pushed out for a corner by Gal.

The corner was cleared by Richmond but Kozic collected the ball and crossed it back in with Dragicevic literally centimetres away from getting his head to it.

With 10 minutes left Richmond were so close to re-taking the lead. Dimitri Tsiaras played a great ball over the top of the Knights defence from inside his own half which Michael Catalano chested down beautifully and he continued his run but he dragged his shot wide of the far post.

Knights sensed they could find a winner and Dubois had a chance when he created some space for himself on the edge of the area but his shot went

just wide.

Ryan Filipovic, the hero from the Knights 1-1 draw against St. Albans a fortnight ago, tried his luck from long range but his powerful effort went straight to the keeper.

The last chance of the game fell to the Knights when Dubois' great cross in from a free kick was met by the head of Filipovic but his header flashed agonizingly wide of the goal.

The referee blew the final whistle and was instantly surrounded by players questioning some decisions made in the game, but nothing could change the final score of one-all.

The next round of the VPL sees Richmond host St. Albans Saints on Saturday afternoon whilst the Knights have an away trip to Hume City on the Sunday.



Anyone for a game of Twister? Anthony Colosimo gets stuck in with Erhan Karahan, Michael Catalano and Ben Surey. Photo: STEVE STAREK



The Knights celebrate Josip Magdic's goal and are back on level terms. Photo: STEVE STAREK

BENTLEIGH GREENS



1

NORTHCOTE CITY



1

Match Details

Bentleigh Greens:
P.Gavalas, T.Matthews, C.Smart
(J.Bounas 84'), W.Wallace,
S.McIlroy (J.McGarry 70'),
H.Doyle, A.Fedjevic, A.Wilford,
R.Davidson, J.Webster (D.Keogh
60'), S.Nicholson.

Goals: Doyle 71'.
Yellow Cards: Smart, Nicholson.
Red Cards: None

Northcote City:
C.Theodoridis-Petropoulos,
A.Chiappetta, K.Konstandinidis,
P.Savio, H.D'Agostino, N.Tzoulis,
J.Trifiro, G.Trifiro, D.Piemonte
(J.Kalafatidis 73'), N.Curtis,
T.Rixon.

Goals: D'Agostino 50'.
Yellow Cards: Konstandinidis,
Rixon.
Red Cards: None

Venue: Kingston Heath
Crowd: 800

A Tale Of Two Scoring Haydens

By Jack Hickert

The beginning of round ten saw Bentleigh Greens host Northcote City in what was predicted to be an arm wrestle at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex in front of a modest crowd. The end score resulted in a draw 1 – 1.

The first half involved both sides struggling to format an effective method of attack as at differing stages throughout the half each sides' defence relished the challenge of defending an attack.

Both sides began slow, however it was Northcote who was able to show signs of scoring, especially through the terrific work on the right wing by Nicholas Curtis who constantly provided drive and opportunity for his forwards to have an opportunity to score. Bentleigh found it a difficult task initially to break through.

Northcote's strong defensive zone in the middle of the pitch but eventually hit their straps, eventually cre-

ating scoring opportunities, none more so than Ryan Davidson who was gifted an opportunity to score by fellow team mate Stuart Nicholson only for Davidson's header to be stopped in its tracks by Christopher Petropoulos.

Overall, it became an arm wrestle in the middle of the pitch allowing neither side to trouble the scorers in the opening half and with a couple of yellow cards handed out to Craig Smart and Kristian Konstandinidis to bring the home crowd to life the second half loomed as an exciting encounter.

Northcote City began the half well attacking regularly right from the beginning and in the 50th minute an impressive build up and through ball provided the perfect platform for Hayden D'Agostino to beat Peter Gavalas in a one on one situation to make the score 1 – 0 to the visitors.

Northcote continued to dominate in the middle of the pitch as Bentleigh again fell into the pattern of not

moving the ball quickly as Paul Savio of Northcote provided plenty of dash and run for the visitors.

Bentleigh looked gone for all money, making uncharacteristic skill errors and struggling to create opportunities until Hayden Doyle in the 69th minute took his opportunity from beyond the box with a terrific strike to draw level with Northcote 1 – 1 with all of sudden Bentleigh gaining momentum against the play.

From here on quality opportunities came and went for both sides and the encounter remained a gripping one until the final whistle, the score remaining 1 – 1.

Next week in round eleven, Northcote are at home against South Melbourne in what looks to be a fascinating battle with the home ground advantage cancelling out against South Melbourne, meanwhile Bentleigh on the road to attempt to gain maximum points against Green Gully.



He shoots, he scores! Northcote's Hayden D'Agostino fires home to break the deadlock.

Photo: PETER PSARROS



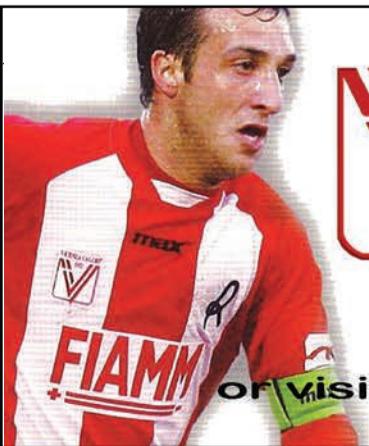
Hayden D'Agostino's effort hits the back of the net for the visitors. Photo: PETER PSARROS

A delighted Northcote City celebrate Hayden D'Agostino's opener.

Photo: PETER PSARROS



Meanwhile, Bentleigh's Hayden Doyle shows his got the muscle after putting the home side back onto level terms. Photo: PETER PSARROS



1902
VICENZA
TRIALS 17-28 APRIL
2011
vicenzacalcio.com

or visit www.issgenova.com to see past successful trialists



1300 793 505
GENOVA
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SOCCER
specialising in Junior & Youth
development & career pathways

ST ALBANS SAINTS



HEIDELBERG UNITED



0

5

Match Details

Heidelberg United:
 1. Griffin McMMASTER,
 4. John LAZARIDIS,
 14. Craig ELVIN, 22.
 Ben WEARING, 16.
 Steve MARTIN, 2. Yarrad HAILEMEZKUT, 21.
 Ritchie GREEN, 7. Hamlet ARMENIAN, 11. Evan CHRISTODOULOU, 20.
 Saso ALEXOVSKI, 8.
 Andrew NABOUTT.

Subs: 32. Jason KOUT-SODONTO, 5. George PAPADOPoulos, 23.
 Takanori NISHIMOTO, 3.
 Les DOUMBALIS.

St. Albans Saints:
 1. Steven PAVLOVIC, 19.
 Michael GRGIC, 5. Brian CHESSON, 16. Tomislav USKOK, 23. Tomislav MILARDOVIC, 14. Mark PALEKA, 8. Liam CAN-NELL, 4. Maks CUZE, 21.
 Martin HANA, 7. Goran JOZELIC, 17. Daniel VISEVIC.

Subs: 20. Anthony LON-CARIC, 9. Josip LON-CARIC, 6. Alan PALEKA, 10. Stefan PIORKOWSKI.

Bergers inflict misery on Saints

By David Manuca

St. Albans Saints are still winless in the 2011 Victorian Premier League season after crashing to a 5-0 thumping by Heidelberg United at Churchill Reserve on Sunday afternoon.

It was a gloomy day, both for the Saints and weather-wise, as they were reduced to 10-men early in the match when Maks Cuze was rather unlucky to be given his marching orders after a challenge on Saso Alexovski.

Heidelberg had already taken the lead just over ten minutes prior to that, in the 7th minute, when Evan Christodoulou scored the first of his two goals.

Andrew Naboult made it 2-0 in the 27th minute before Hamlet Armenian made it 3-0 from the penalty spot with just under fifteen minutes left.

Christodoulou made it 4-0 three minutes after that with substitute Takanori Nishimoto adding a fifth in injury time.

Osagie Ederaro was suspended for the match after picking up two yellow cards in Heidelberg's previous hit-out, a 1-0 win over Green Gully, and was replaced in the starting line-up Andrew Naboult.

St. Albans manager Vinko Buljubasic also made just one change to his starting line-up bringing in Daniel Visevic in place of Josip Loncaric.

Evan Christodoulou gave Heidelberg the best possible start when he gave them the lead seven minutes in. Hamlet Armenian drilled in



It's a case of high fives for the Heidelberg United after running rampant against the St Albans Saints. John Lazaridis and Yarrad Hailemezukut enjoy the spoils with Steve Martin and Evan Christodoulou. PHOTO:STEVE STAREK

a low cross which evaded everyone, falling straight to Christodoulou in the centre of the six yard box who had the easy task of tapping the ball home.

St. Albans should have been level three minutes later after Martin Hana played in a great cross to Daniel Visevic but he hit his header straight to Heidelberg goalkeeper Griffin McMaster who pushed the ball out for a corner.

But in the 19th minute referee Shaun Evans controversially sent-off Maks Cuze after a fairly harmless challenge on Heidelberg player Saso Alexovski.

Things went from bad to worse for the Saints soon after when Shaun Evans point-

ed to the spot after a challenge by Tomislav Uskok on Andrew Naboult.

Naboult stepped up and took the penalty which Steven Pavlovic saved, but the ball fell straight back to Naboult who wasn't going to miss.

Despite being a man down St. Albans were able to restrict Heidelberg extending their advantage further and nearly even got one back when Goran Jozeljic's cross came off the post but an unaware Visevic put the rebound over.

Each side made a change at the break with Takanori Nishimoto and Stefan Piorkowski coming on for Heidelberg and St. Albans respectively.

The start of the second half

was quite dour with Heidelberg content to sit back and defend their lead.

They nearly gave St. Albans a goal on the hour mark when Ben Wearing came close to heading the ball into his own net, but to his relief it flashed just wide of the post.

But in the 76th minute Heidelberg were once again able to use their one man advantage to effect, adding a third from the penalty spot.

Hamlet Armenian was released one-on-one with Pavlovic, who attempted to go around, but after saving his initial shot Pavlovic brought Armenian down giving the referee no choice but to award another spot-kick.

Armenian, unlike Naboult, had no troubles converting

the penalty, sending Pavlovic the wrong way.

Three minutes later Christodoulou grabbed his second when the ball rolled to him on the edge of the area taking a shot which left Pavlovic wondering what had just happened.

Heidelberg capped off their dominance in the 90th minute when half time substitute Takanori Nishimoto made it 5-0 with a well-taken goal.

St. Albans face another tough task next week as they travel to Hume whilst Heidelberg will be looking to make it four wins in a row when they host Richmond at Olympic Village on Sunday afternoon.



Referee Shaun Evans shows St Albans' Maks Cruz a red card and it's going to be a very long afternoon for the Saints.. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK



Heidelberg's Evan Christodoulou is on hand to steer home the first goal after 7 minutes and open the floodgates for the visitors. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES



0

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS



5

Match Details

Players Springvale

23, Agustin, Scott, 2, Ewin, Adam,
4, Bajic, Boris, 6, Ponjevc, Gojko, 8,
Mrdic, Gordan, 9, Lukic, Milos, 11,
Tomic, Rados, 12, Nikolic, Dushan,
16, D'Angelo, Dominic

17, Vukas, Zoran, 19, Zoric, Goran

Substitutes

1, Morales, Christian, 7, Racunica,
Tome, 14, Maghia, Paul, 22, Jerez,
Andres
24, Karanicolas, Lewis

Green Gully

1 Roganovic Nikola(gk)2 Jones
Daniel, 4 Drake Cameron, 7 Fleming, Jeffrey, 8 Hayne Jason, 9 Fisher
Brent, 10 Hockless Graham,
15 Basma Hamid 16 Medjedovic
Mile, 17 Vargas Andy, 19 Munoz
Jonathan

Substitutes

23 Interlandi Mason(gk) 6 Anderson
Michael 11 Vizzari Pasquale, 12
Sanders Mathew, 14 Ollerton Ryan,

Goal Scores

Basma Hamid 35, 59, 63
Hayne Jason 65
Brent Fisher 88

Gully find their shooting boots

By Gordon Bennett

Green Gully faced Springvale White Eagles at Springvale Stadium, in perfect condition, probably the best surface in the AVPL and a must win contest for Green Gully to try and secure a much needed 3 points.

From the kick off Green Gully exhibited dominance but it wasn't going to be without a fight from the boys of Springvale. Within the first 10 minutes Johnathon Munoz tried his luck with a thunderbolt shot from outside the 18 yard box only to be saved over the cross bar for a Gully corner.

A well taken corner by Hockless, finding Medjedovic who headed the ball into the safe hands of Scott Agustin. Springvale moving the ball out quickly to Goran Zoric, tried his luck shooting at goals and testing Nickola Roganovic who had to dive to his left making his first save for the afternoon.

The best opportunity to score came from Green Gully 20 minutes into the first half, where a brilliant turn from Brent Fisher, crossing the ball to Hamid Basma who controlled the ball with his chest in front of Springvale's goalkeeper.

Springvale's goalkeeper read the play well and positioned himself splendidly coming off his line to win the ball. Shortly after Daniel Jones getting forward and shooting at goals, again it was Springvale's goalkeeper that was there to save his side from conceding. It wasn't all one-way traffic, Springvale did break through a number of times through Milos Lujic, Dominic D'Angelo and Zoran Vukas all displayed good football ability to penetrate through Gully's midfield, only to be met by a solid Daniel Jones and his colleagues.

In the 35th minute Gully making a number of passes getting onto Graham Hockless who delivered a supreme ball to Hamid Basma who delightfully headed the ball across the goals and in the back of the net.

In the second half Springvale came out firing and pressuring Gully's midfield and defence with substitutes Tome Racvnica and Lewis Karanicolas, causing all sorts of issues for the Green and White. It took Gully right up to the 55th minute to settle and regroup from a Springvale attack.

Jason Hayne making a run on the left and crossing the ball to Hamid Basma who twisted and turned to create space from Boris Bajic and slotting the ball passed Scott Agustin for his second goal for the afternoon. Within 4 minutes Jason Hayne involved again, crossing a dangerous ball where Scott Agustin making the first error of the afternoon fumbled the ball. Hamid in the right spot, making no mistake and scoring his third goal. Springvale never gave up playing with three goals down displaying great encouragement through Goran Zoric and Dominic D'Angelo, who continued to taunt the Gully's defence.

In the 65th minute Jason Hayne receiving a good ball from Hockless and cracking a shot at goals from just outside the 18 yard box left Agustin with no chance, making it 4 nil. Springvale, despite being 4 nil down Dominic D'Angelo continued to make great runs through Gully's midfield and having shots on goals. In the 88th minute Gully's one touch football through the midfield finding Brent Fisher who neatly controlled the ball and slotted the ball passed an inspirational Scott Agustin to make it 5 nil.



It's all high fives for Green Gully's Andy Vargas and Basma Hamid (15).
Photo: ANITA MILAS



The Green Machine are back in business after returning back on to the winner's list.

Photo: ANITA MILAS



Green Gully's Basma Hamid has a day out to remember after notching a hat-trick.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

SOUTH MELBOURNE



0

DANDENONG THUNDER



0

Match Details

South Melbourne: 1. Abdelhadi DEROUNE, 3. Rhodri PAYNE, 5. Daniel VASILEVSKI, 6. Steven TOPALOVIC, 9. Gianni DE NITTIS (25. Kyle JURY-EFF, 60'), 15. Fernando DE MORAES, 16. Trent WATERSON, 17. Jake VANDERMAY, 18. Marinos GASPARIS (19. Leigh MINOPOULOS, 81'), 24. Nicholas JACOBS, 33. Bobby RUSSELL (14. Kamal IBRAHIM, 70'). Unused Subs: 12. Bradley TRELOAR, 21. Zaim ZENELLI.

Goal Scorers: Nil
Yellow Cards: Nil

Dandenong Thunder: 1. Stuart WEBSTER, 2. Jack HINGERT, 3. Ben HARRISON, 5. Steven GRAY, 6. Acim TOMIC, 8. Matthew THEODORE (16. Jarryd BARNES, 80'), 9. Veton KOCARI (14. Stephen COOKE, 60'), 13. Shane REXHEPI, 17. Liam KEARNEY, 20. Luke SHERBON, 23. Chris TAYLOR. Unused Subs: 10. Alex ROJAS, 11. Denis UKALOVSKI, 26. Sermin SADIKOVSKI.
Goal Scorers: Nil
Yellow Cards: 5. Steven GRAY, 65'.

Heavyweights share the spoils

By Vanessa Lougoon

In a highly anticipated match between arguably the two best teams in the competition, the match did not live up to the hype, resulting with a nil all draw in what ended up being a low vibe encounter.

While South went in undermanned, missing six key players, predominately defensive, Dandenong were lacking their usual zing for much of the match.

South were cautious in first half and particularly vulnerable in the backline. Dandenong looked deflated in the beginning and took some time to lift their intensity.

Possession in the first ten minutes was even, both teams looking tentative and to be going through the motions.

The first scoring opportunity came in the 11th minute with Dandenong's Veton Korcari accepting a clean delivery in front of goal, but could not make a solid connection and wasted an opportunity.

Dandenong started to pick up their intensity after the 20th minute, applying greater attack in the midfield and effectively moving the ball out of their defence.

South immediately responded and started to move the ball quickly down to their attack, giving the match a much-needed confidence boost.

In the 27th minute, Dandenong's Luke Sherbon created a scoring opportunity in front of a packed goal, but Dandenong's attack could

not connect and was headed out by South's defence.

Dandenong took another shot in the 29th minute where Liam Kearney's strike was sent narrowly over the bar.

Kearney continued his dominance in attack sending a precise cross to Chris Taylor, but his header went wide. Only moments later, a persistent Taylor attempted to penetrate into the goal square, but Dandenong did not have the numbers where it counted, with South managing to push the ball out of their defence.

For the remainder of the first half, Dandenong were out playing South, who were playing cautiously, particularly out of defence. Kearney kept the pressure on with his relentless attacking.

Kearney was on the job immediately into the second half, cleverly lobbing South's keeper Abdelhadi Deroune, but was headed out at the last line of defence.

Kearney struck again from the right wing, but was deflected by Deroune in the 53rd minute.

There was a renewed spark in the second half by South, prompted by their defence pushing up deeper and more effectively, however, were often lacking numbers in their attack to maintain possession.

South's attack started to bring it together by the 54th minute, with good interplay by Gianni De Nittis feeding into Marinos Gasparis then to Fernando De Moraes to



Steve Topalovic drops from the sky to tackle Veton Korcari. Matthew Theodore is

potentially clinch their first goal, but blasted the ball straight over the bar.

In the 67th minute De Moraes played through to Gasparis to take a scoring shot into open goal from the right wing but narrowly missed over the bar.

Dandenong picked up their intensity in the final ten minutes to create several scoring opportunities. A corner ball was sent precisely into the

pack but deflected out and Jarryd Barnes kicked from 30 yards from right wing but was saved by Deroune.

The hard luck story of the day was Kearney, who took a strike in the 90th minute but was caught by Deroune, Kearney unlucky to have not scored for the match.

South substitutes also added extra pace up front, Leigh Minopoulos giving South

a final scoring chance in the dying minutes pushing towards goal but was outplayed by the tight Dandenong defence.

Next week, South Melbourne take on Northcote City at John Cain Memorial Park while Dandenong Thunder take on Oakleigh Cannons at George Andrews Reserve.



Liam Kearney is about to take a tumble after colliding with South keeper Abdelhadi Deroune.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Matthew Theodore (Thunder) challenges Fernando De Moraes. Luke Sherborn is ready to pounce on a loose ball. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



HUME CITY

Match Details

KO 8.30pm
Monday 2nd May
Jack Edwards Reserve, Oakleigh

The Likely Lads

Oakleigh Cannons:
P.Zois
B.Obradovic
A.Bran
J. Cumming
J. Downey
C.Goodwin
A.Cicak
D.Milovanovic
F.Lagana
R.Diaco
N.Antic
L.Walker
R.Tavascioglou
B.Damianos
S.Hatzikostas
M.Becket.

Hume City:
1. Lupce Acevski
2. Adam Nakic
3. Fabio Dilizia
17. Mark McGough
6. Serdar Pir
10. Richie Cardozo
11. Andrew Vlahos
25. Atilla Ofli
15. Zoran Petrevski
20. Michael Bolevski
21. Dusko Delic
4. Mark Pistrizzi
22. Phillip Riccobene
23. Steven Weir
30. Ali Catak.

Big Guns Set For Finals Prelude

By Luke Gillman

Tonight at Jack Edwards Reserve two of the VPL's strongest teams meet in a mid-season blockbuster. Oakleigh Cannons are sitting in first place on the table, but Hume City will be looking for a win to push up from equal third into second.

Since beating last year's premiers Richmond 0-2 in the last round, Oakleigh have taken top spot after Dandenong Thunder were docked six points at a tribunal hearing last week. Dandenong now sit in fifth place. Hume City will be going into this match with confidence after beating South Melbourne 5-0 in the previous round, and knocking out local rivals Hume United 2-1 in the fourth round of the Mirabella Cup over Easter. Hume City have been solid this season and some people are talking of them as this year's dark horse.

Oakleigh have almost a full squad to pick from for tonight's clash, with only James Robinson out injured, while Jim Downey and Jamie Cumming are back in the side. Cannons coach Arthur Papas is excited about the match-up.

"It will be a very tough game", he said, "but our home record this year is fantastic".

When asked about last week's win at Richmond, Papas described himself as "very happy", particularly with the defence.

"It was the best performance the team has put together this year. Peter Zois had no saves to make", he said.

Papas wasn't giving away any secrets when asked about his formation for tonight, but he did say that although Oakleigh wouldn't deviate a lot from their recent set-up, they would still look to counter Hume



VPL front runners Oakleigh Cannons and Hume City go head to head tonight at Jack Edwards Reserve in a highly anticipated Monday Night Football clash. Hume's Zoran Petrevski comes up trumps in this heading duel during last year's fixture. Photo: PETER KAKALIAS

City's strengths.

Hume City have been typically solid over the last month with the exception of a 4-1 away loss to Bentleigh Greens in round 8. A miserly defence has conceded just over a goal a game on average, and they will need to use this defensive solidity against Oakleigh's ex-

perienced forward line if they are to claim a victory here.

"This is a six-pointer for us", player-coach Andy Vlahos said. "We have to play it strategically smart like we did at South (on 18 April)".

Several players are out injured or suspended, but Steve Pace will be back to the squad and

may start. With spirits high and the goals flying in recently, Vlahos, the in-form Richie Cardozo and young Scotsman Steven Weir will be looking to get on the score sheet early on to put the home side under pressure.

Tonight's match should be a hard-fought encounter as these

two early contenders aim to continue their recent form.

Both clubs are shaping up well in the first half of the season, and if they keep that consistency over the coming months they are sure to feature prominently in the play-offs come August.



Alanic VPL Standings

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
1	Oakleigh Cannons	10	7	1	2	21	11	10	22
2	South Melbourne	11	6	3	2	21	18	3	21
3	Dandenong Thunder	11	7	3	1	24	8	16	18
4	Hume City	10	5	3	2	18	11	7	18
5	Northcote City	11	5	3	3	22	16	6	18
6	Heidelberg Utd	10	5	3	2	17	11	6	15
7	Bentleigh Greens	11	4	3	4	16	16	0	15
8	Richmond	11	3	2	6	12	21	-9	11
9	Green Gully Cavaliers	10	3	1	6	16	13	3	10
10	Melbourne Knights	11	2	4	5	15	16	-1	10
11	VTC Football	09	3	0	6	11	22	-11	9
12	Springvale White Eagles	11	1	5	5	15	28	-13	8
13	St Albans Saints	10	0	3	7	9	26	-17	3

Alanic VPL Round 11

Wed 4 May 8:30PM
N.T.C v Green Gully Cavaliers
Green Gully Reserve

Sat 7 May 3:00PM
Richmond Eagles v St Albans
Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Sat 7 May 3:00PM
Green Gully v Bentleigh Greens
Green Gully Reserve

Sat 7 May 7:00PM
Dandenong Thunder v Oakleigh Cannons
George Andrews Reserve

Sun 8 May 3:00PM
Hume City v Melbourne Knights
Broadmeadows Valley Park

Sun 8 May 3:00PM
Northcote City v South Melbourne
John Cain Memorial

Sun 8 May 6:00PM
Heidelberg Utd v Springvale White Eagles
Olympic Park (Village)

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	GD	Pt	
1	Melbourne Knights	11	6	3	2	29	11	18
2	Green Gully Cavaliers	09	6	2	1	24	11	20
3	South Melbourne	09	6	2	1	26	14	12
4	Hume City	10	5	2	3	26	15	11
5	Oakleigh Cannons	10	5	2	3	27	18	9
6	Northcote City	11	5	2	4	21	19	2
7	Heidelberg Utd	09	5	1	3	18	16	2
8	Thunder	10	4	2	4	24	20	4
9	Springvale White Eagles	10	4	0	6	21	-13	12
10	Richmond	11	3	0	8	18	38	-20
11	Bentleigh Greens	11	2	2	7	18	33	-15
12	VTC Football	9	2	1	6	15	27	-12
13	St Albans Saints	10	1	3	6	18	29	-11

Elastoplast

Sport

Elastoplast

Support your Passion to WIN

THE ULTIMATE SPORTING DREAM

WIN a VIP Grand Final Package or
an Australian Institute of Sport
Training Package

5 TO BE
WON!

PLUS
FREE **MINI**
SPORT BALL

with the purchase of 2 Elastoplast products



(While Stocks last)

Promotion ends 30/06/11. See in-store for further details or visit www.elastoplast.com.au for full terms and conditions.
NSW Permit No. LTPS/11/01843, VIC Permit No. 11/347, SA Licence No. T11/347, ACT Permit No. TPII/00638

*One per state group.

MAJOR SPONSOR
SPORTS MEDICINE
AUSTRALIA
SAFER SPORT PROGRAMME

OFFICIAL SUPPLIER
AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF SPORT

Visit your
local Pharmacy

and buy 2 Elastoplast products then go to
www.elastoplast.com.au
to enter

